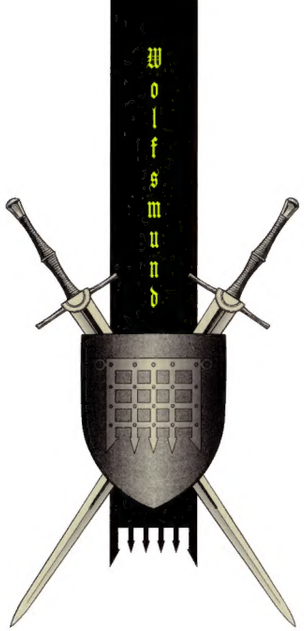

Poesie des Widerstandes

KUMI FUSUHISA

狼の口 ヴォルフスムント

Wolfsmund

1

久慈光久

Im frühen 14. Jahrhundert wachte ein gnadenloser Wächter über dem St. Gotthard Pass und niemand könnte die Grenze ohne ein gründliches Verhör passieren. Die uneinnehmbare Festung wurde „Wolfsmund" genannt.

BEAM COMIX

狼の口 Wolfsmund ヴォルフスムント 1

久慈光久

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狼の口

Wolfsmund

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BEAM COMIX

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Wolfsmund

ヴォルフスムント

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久慈光久

enterbrain

Poesie des Widerstandes

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ヴォルフスムント

Wolfsmund

1

Mitsuhisa Kuji

久慈光久

BEAM COMIX

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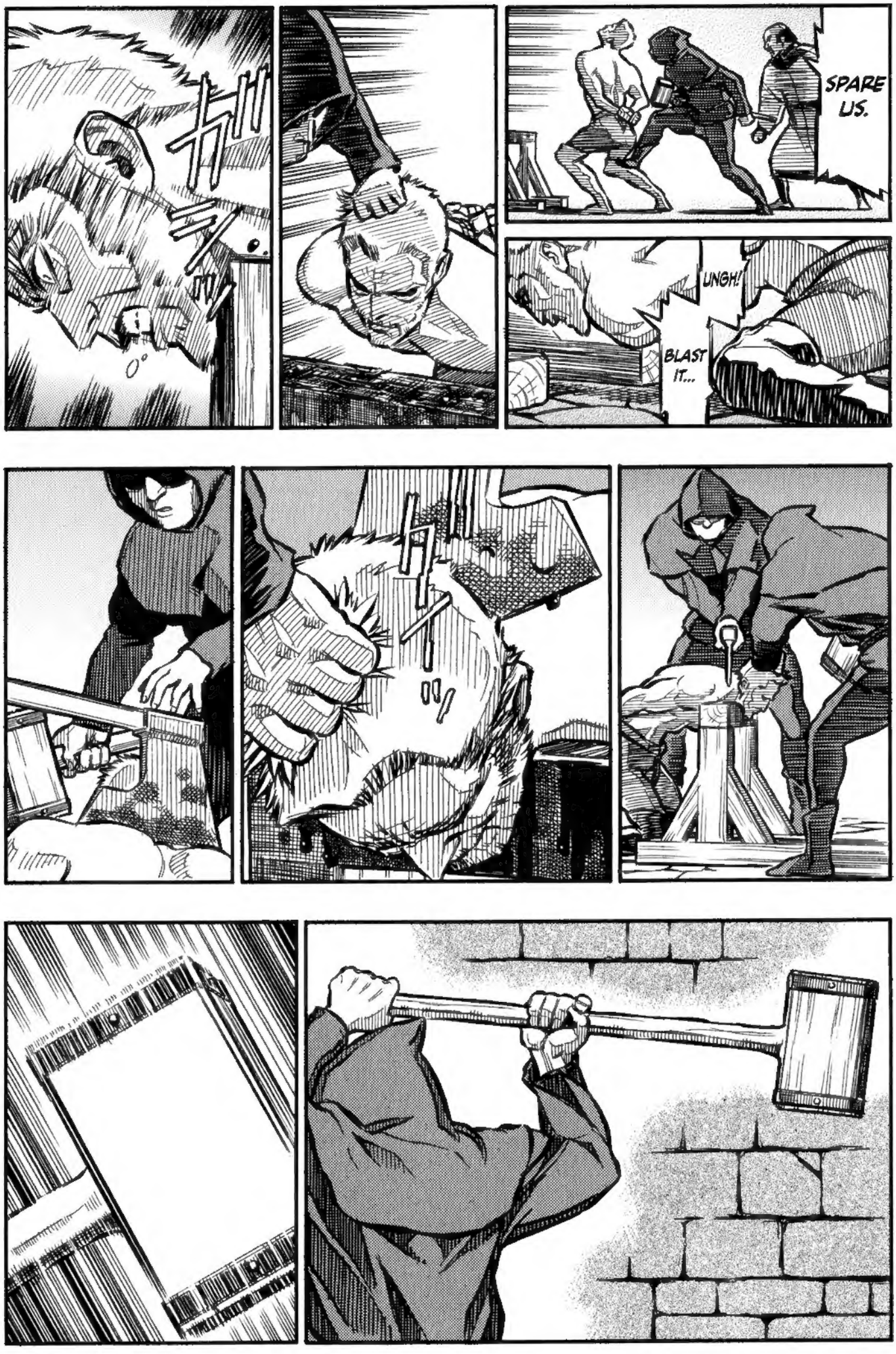
Gottheim
Editing
The Antagonist
Lettering
Nomad Soul

I REFUSE.
I AM NO CRIMINAL.
YOU TRAITOR-OUS SCUM!
KNEEL AT ONCE!
I HAVE FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM.
AS A CHAMPION OF LIBERTY.
I REQUEST TO BE DECAPITATED BY SWORD.

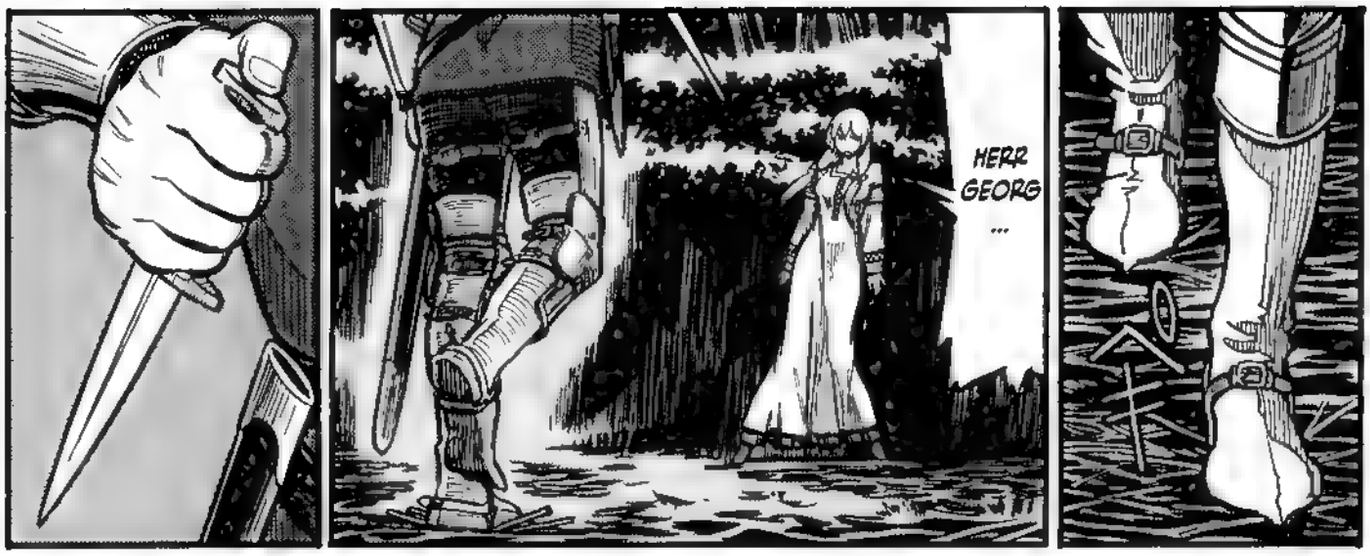

SPARE US.
UNGH!
BLAST IT...

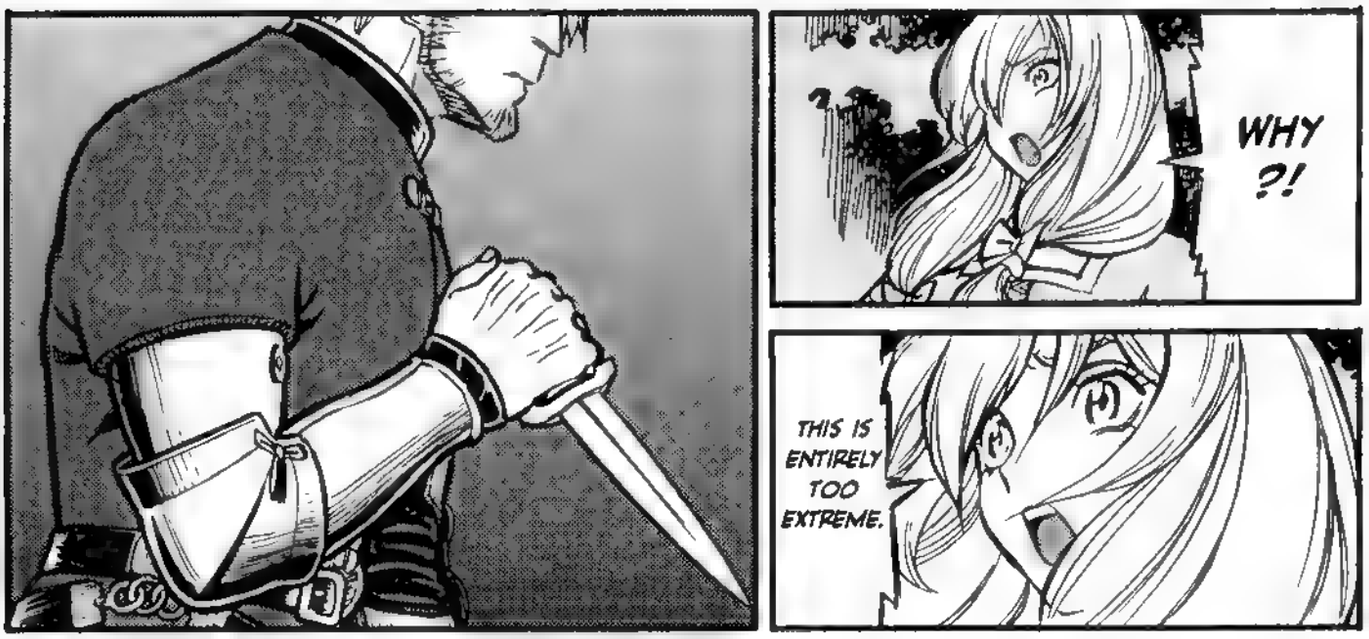
THE REBEL RINGLEADER ERNST OF SCHWYZ...
...HAS BEEN DEALT WITH.
VERY GOOD.
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY.
I WANT HER CAPTURED AND BROUGHT BACK HERE *QUICKLY.*
IF WE DALLY TOO MUCH IT WILL DULL THE IMPACT OF HER PUNISHMENT.
NOW, WHAT OF HIS DAUGH-TER?
ABOUT THAT, WELL...
WE'RE STILL...
AS FOR THE HIGHWAY CHECK-POINTS...
WE'VE SENT THEM A MESSAGE.
IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US TO LET THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND KNOW THE EXTENT OF OUR DETERMINATION.
WHOSOEVER REBELS AGAINST US SHALL SEE THEIR FAMILY LINE DESTROYED ENTIRELY.

SPEAKING OF THE CHECK-POINT AT THAT PARTICULAR PASS...
...OUR MAN IS STATIONED THERE...
SHOULD SHE ATTEMPT TO FLEE THE COUNTRY...
...HER SHORTEST COURSE WOULD BE...
THROUGH THE ST. GOTTHARD PASS...
... TOWARDS MILAN, I TAKE IT.
EARLY 14TH CENTURY, IN THE ALPINE REGION.
THE FEDERATED CANTONS OF URI, UNTERWALDEN, AND SCHWYZ...
...SAW THEIR POLITICAL AUTONOMY STRIPPED AWAY...
...AT THE HANDS OF THE AUSTRIAN OPPRESSOR.

Chapter 1
Lise and
Georg

FATHER...
FATHER...
I'M LEAVING...
VERY WELL.
FRÄU-
LEIN
LISE.
I SHALL
TRAVEL
ACROSS
THE PASS...
...IN
ORDER TO
SURVIVE.


HERR GEORG ...


WHY ?!
THIS IS ENTIRELY TOO EXTREME.

I'M SORRY.
FRÄULEIN LISE.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
IT CAN'T BE...
HOW, EXACTLY, WILL CUTTING OFF MY HAIR HELP US THROUGH THE PASS?
I FAIL TO GRASP THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO.
I USED TO THINK OF YOU...
...AS A MUCH KINDER MAN THAN THAT.
YOU EVEN COMPLIMENTED ME ON MY HAIR BEFORE, DID YOU NOT?
TOLD ME HOW VERY LOVELY YOU FOUND IT.

"LOOK AT ME, I AM LISELOTTE, THE DAUGHTER OF A REBEL."
YOU MIGHT AS WELL ANNOUNCE THAT YOU'RE A WANTED FUGITIVE.
IT GIVES YOU AWAY.
BUT THIS HAIR YOU ARE SO PROUD OF MIGHT END UP SHORTENING YOUR LIFE.
THIS IS NO PLEASURE JAUNT.
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT.
PROCEED, THEN.
PLEASE DON'T CUT IT TOO SHORT.

HERR GEORG ...
YOU DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE, DID YOU?
DEAR GOD!
THAT'S A LOT!
...!!
TAKE OFF YOUR DRESS...
...AND PUT THIS ON.
WHAT...
...IS THAT THING?

THEY'RE SOILED WITH FOUR YEARS' WORTH OF DIRT, SWEAT, AND URINE.
HE NEVER TOOK THEM OFF EVEN ONCE, EVER SINCE I HIRED HIM FOUR YEARS AGO.
MY ATTENDANT WORE THESE CLOTHES.
YOU WANT ME...
...TO WEAR THAT?!
EXACTLY.
I WOULD HAVE YOU BECOME A MAN.
KNIGHT GEORG VON STEINFELD'S PERSONAL ATTENDANT, MORE SPECIFICALLY.
WE SHALL LEAVE BEFORE DAYBREAK.
CALL ME BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
AT THE PASS CHECK-POINT...
...WE'LL PRETEND TO BE A KNIGHT AND HIS SERVANT, ON AN INITIATION TRIP ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
HENCE THE DISGUISE.

:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:

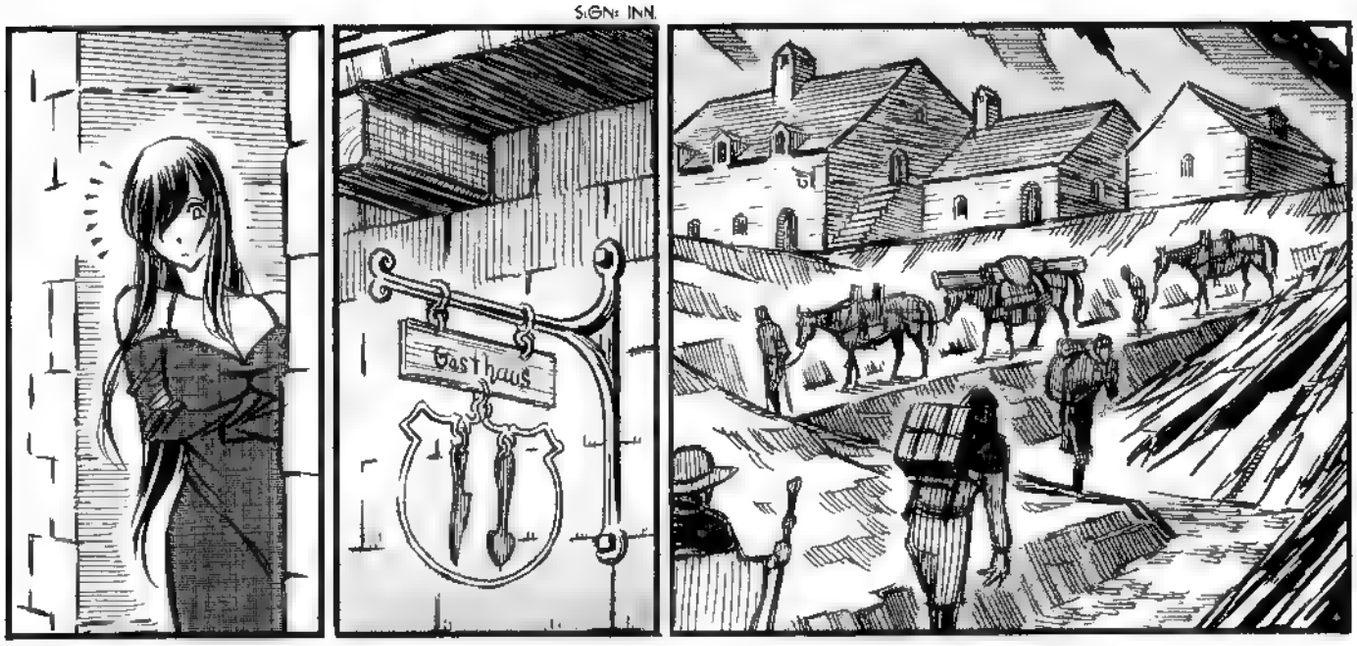
HORSEBACK RIDING IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
THE RISK OF FALLING IS TOO GREAT.
IF YOU CAN'T WALK...
...I'M WILLING TO CARRY YOU ON MY BACK, HOWEVER.
PANT
PANT

UGH ...
THERE IS NO CHOICE, THEN.
LET'S GET SOME REST.
YOU HAVE A HOLE IN YOUR SHOE.
ONCE WE MAKE IT OUT OF THE COUNTRY...
...YOU'LL BE FREE TO EXACT RETRIBUTION ON ME HOWEVER YOU WISH.
HATE ME, RESENT ME IF YOU WILL. FOR MY PART...
...I WILL STOP AT *NOTHING* TO SEE YOU TO SAFETY.

WHY...
...ARE YOU DOING ALL OF THIS?
IT'S SO MUCH TROUBLE.
I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS, AND I HAD THE SAME AFFECTION FOR HIM AS I WOULD FOR MY OWN FATHER.
I GLADLY WOULD HAVE DIED FIGHTING BY HIS SIDE...
...BUT HE PLACED YOUR FATE IN MY HANDS INSTEAD.
IT WAS HERR ERNST ...
...WHO MADE ME A KNIGHT.
THEREFORE...
...I THINK OF YOU AS MY SISTER.
TO ME, YOU'RE FAMILY.
AND I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU.

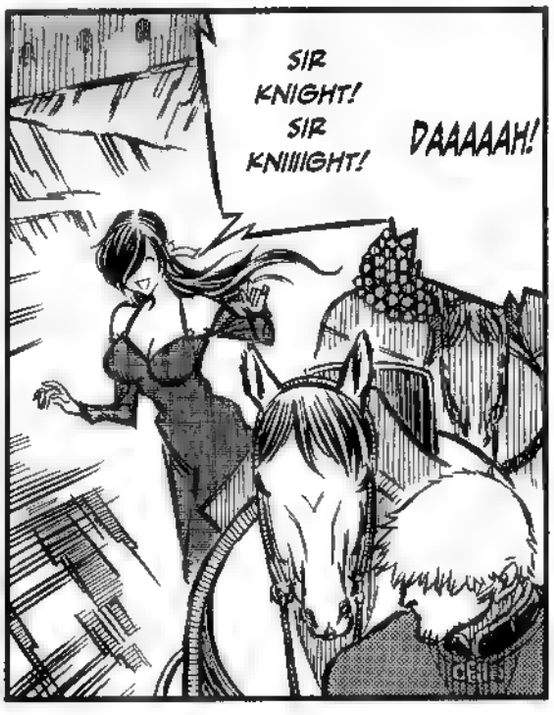
THIS IS...
THERE WE ARE, FRÄULEIN LISE.
:PANT:
:PANT:
...THE ST. GOTTHARD PASS CHECKPOINT.
:PANT:
:PANT:

SIGN: INN.


Gasthaus

WAI... NOT SO FAST.
WE'RE...
COME SPEND THE NIGHT AT OUR INN.

THE AFTER-NOON IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEAV NG. SO YOU WON'T BE GOING ANY FURTHER TODAY, YOU SEE?
OH... AT THIS CHECKPOINT, ARR.V.NG TRAVELERS ARE HANDLED IN THE MORNING.


SIR KNIGHT! SIR KNIIIIGHT!
DAAAAAH!

HALFWAY PREPARED FOR A NIGHT'S REST ALREADY.

AND THERE...
LOOK AT YOUR COM-PANION.

EVER SINCE THE FEUDAL LORD'S ARMIES CAME HERE IN THE ALPS...
...PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENTENCED WITH THE UTMOST CRUELTY.
A CUSTOMER WITH SOMETHING TO HIDE, EH.
WELL, HERE'S SOME ADVICE.
SHE HAS A REALLY PRETTY FACE, TOO.
COUNTLESS PEOPLE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES TO CHEAT THEIR WAY THROUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT. BY THE WAY...
DID YOU KNOW SIR KNIGHT?
THIS CHECKPOINT EVEN HAS A NICKNAME COINED FOR IT.
IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE EXTREME PUNISHMENT.
WOLFSMUND: THE "WOLF'S MAW."

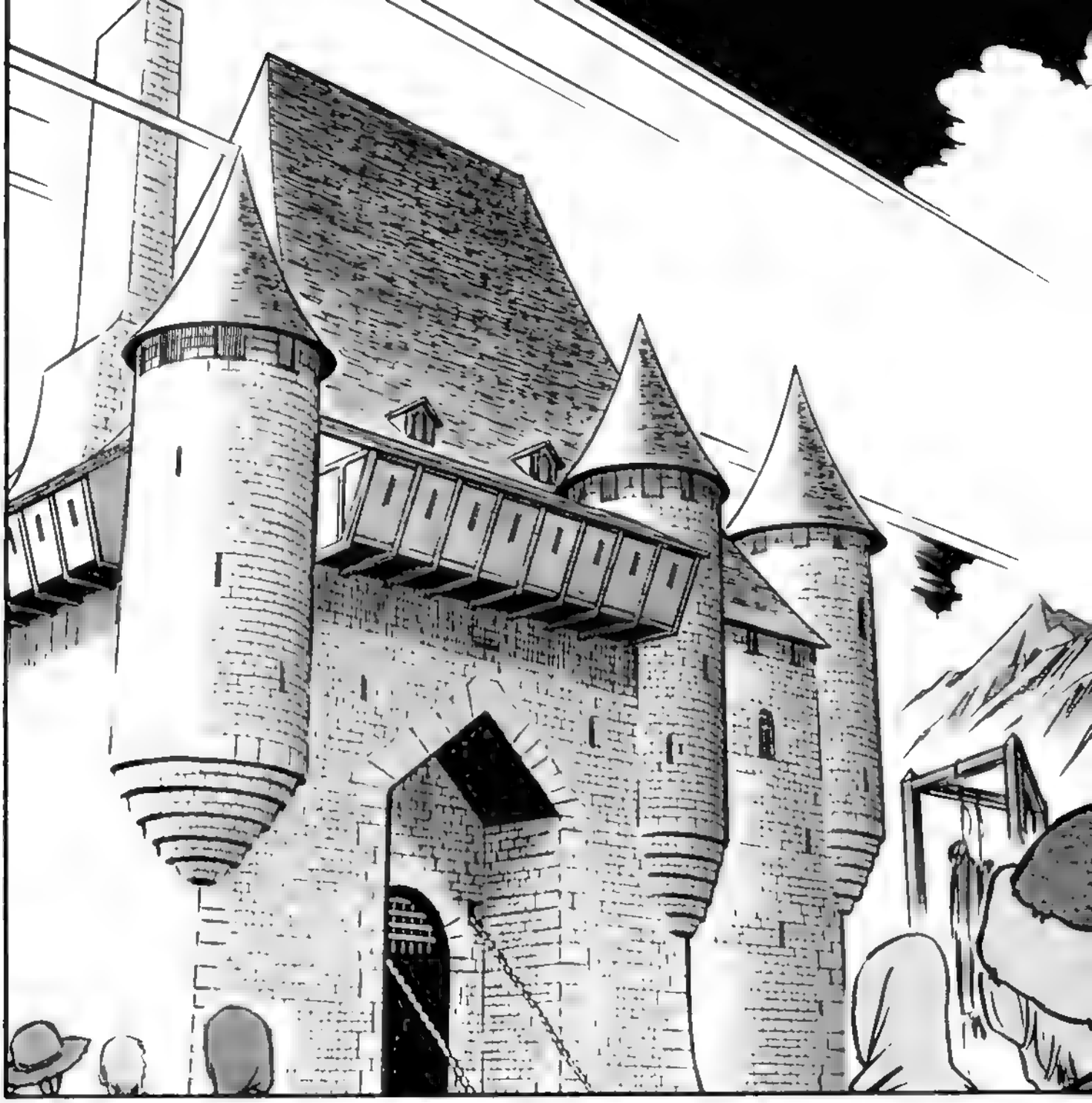
MY ADVICE ...
IF POSSIBLE AT ALL, GO BACK WHENCE YOU CAME.
SO FAR, NOT A SINGLE SOUL HAS EVER MANAGED TO SNEAK PAST HIM...
FOR NOTHING CAN ESCAPE HIS KEEN EYE.
GOVERNOR WOLFRAM HAS TURNED THE HIGHWAY HE PROTECTS INTO THE GREATEST, FINEST OF BARRIERS.
OH. SO YOU REALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE?
I DON'T GO ABOUT SELLING MY CUSTOMERS TO THE AUTHORITIES.
NOT TO WORRY.
NO SECRET PASSAGE, NOTHING?
IS IT... THAT HOPELESS?
HONESTLY, A HUMAN BEING SHOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT AN OPTION...
IT'S AN ANIMAL TRAIL. BARE ROCK ALL THE WAY.
BUT ONLY WILD GOATS EVER GO THROUGH THERE.
WELL ...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, A PASSAGE DOES EXIST.

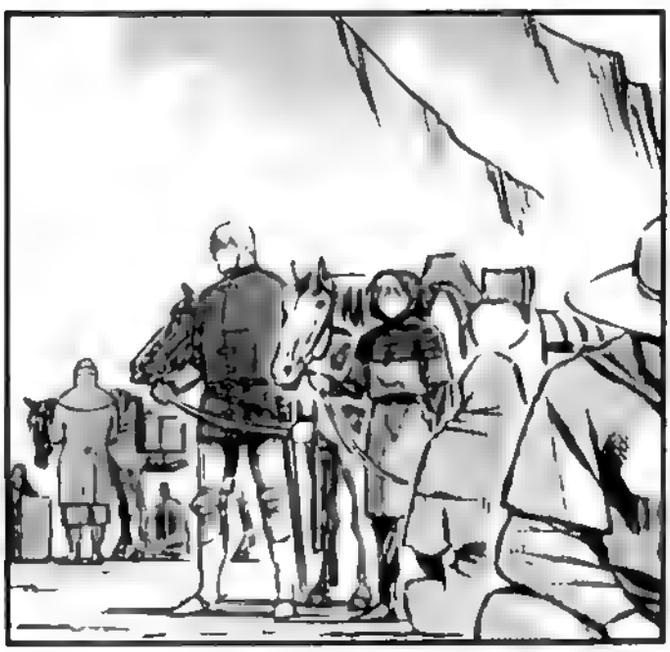
AM I SUPPOSED TO RUB THIS INTO MY FACE AND HAIR?
THERE.
HORSE DUNG
VERY WELL.
COMPARED TO THE WOES THAT BEFELL MY FATHER...
...THIS IS LESS THAN NOTHING.

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS A THOUSANDFOLD.
YOU MIGHT COME TO REGRET THOSE WORDS, BUT DON'T EXPECT THAT TO STOP ME.
HERR GEORG.
ABOUT THAT INCONSIDERATE PROMISE YOU MADE...
...THAT I COULD REPAY YOU HOWEVER I PLEASED.
HEH
...
?!
YOU'RE SMILING.
OH. HERR GEORG.
IT'S BEEN A VERY LONG TIME...
...SINCE I LAST SAW A SMILE ON THAT FACE!

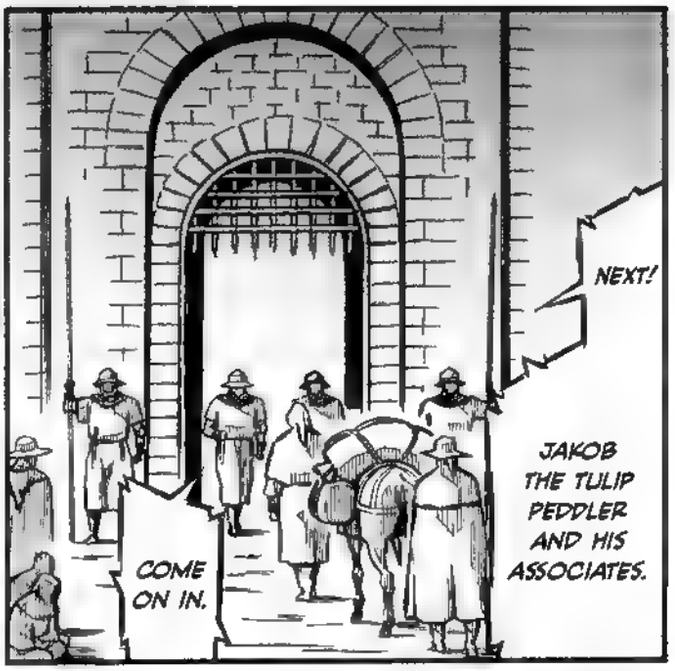
...
HERR GEORG ...
YOU DON'T INTEND TO LET ME BE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS SMELLY AND DIRTY, DO YOU?!
GIVE ME A HAND.

HERR GEORG ...
YOU'VE DIRTIED ME SO MUCH.
YOU'LL DEFI-NITELY...
...HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THIS...





IF YOU DO HAVE A PASS THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
JUST A TOKEN LITTLE SEARCH AND YOU'LL BE STROLLING RIGHT THROUGH IN NO TIME.

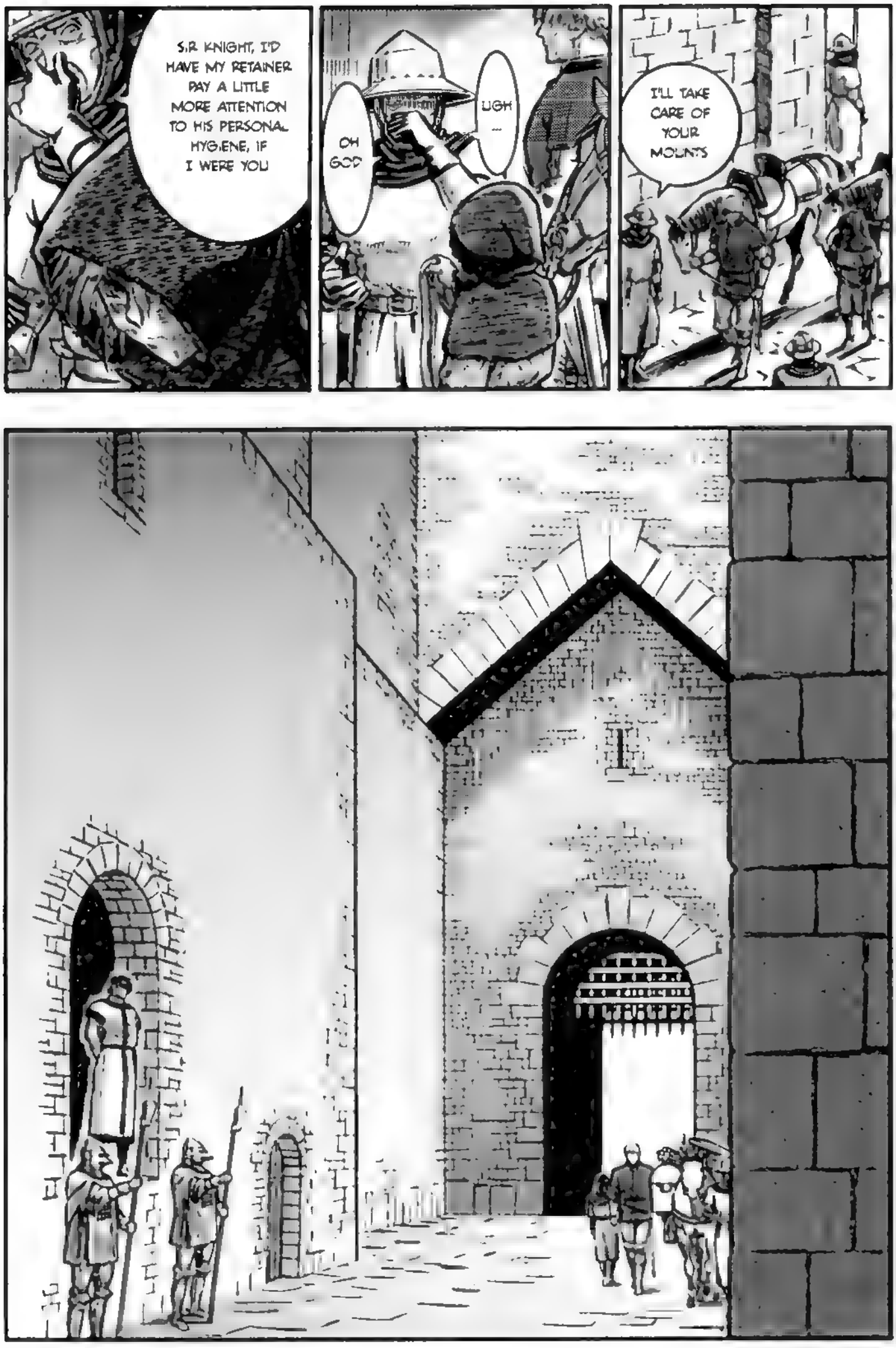

NEXT!
JAKOB THE TULIP PEDDLER AND HIS ASSOCIATES.
COME ON IN.

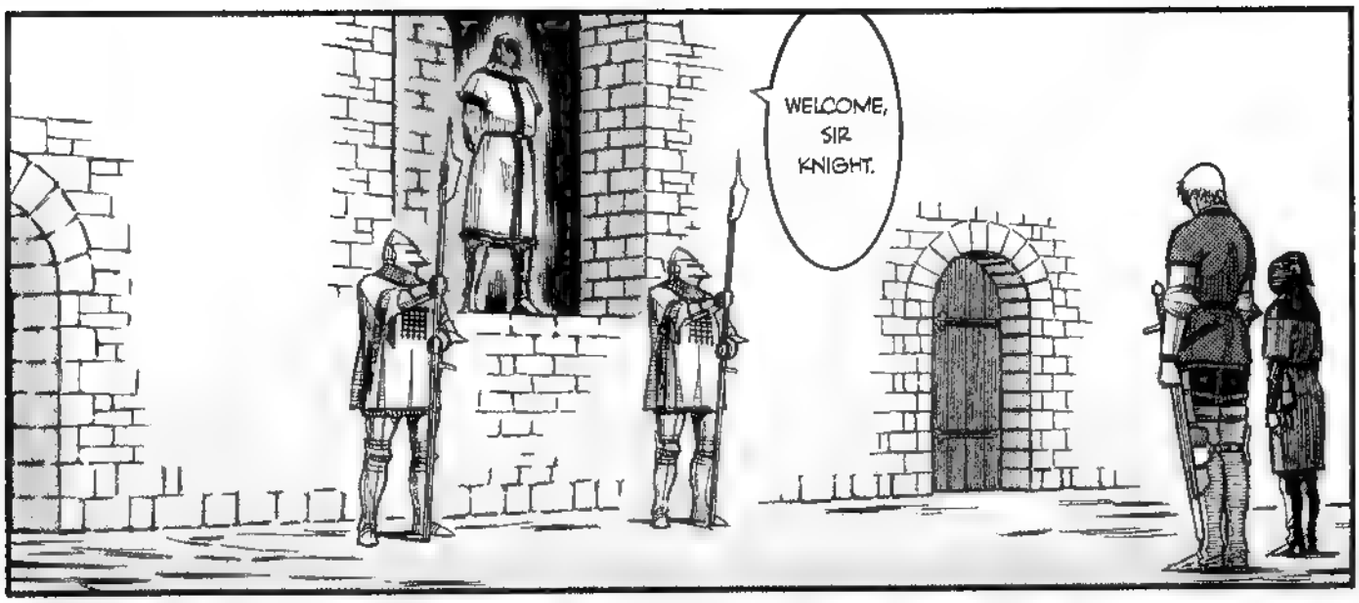
I HEARD THE GOVERNOR HAS MAGICAL POWERS THAT LET HIM SEE RIGHT INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS...
THAT HE WAS BORN OF THE UNION BETWEEN A WOLF AND A HUMAN WOMAN...

APPARENTLY HE TRIED TO SNEAK HIS WAY THROUGH
THEY HANGED HIS WIFE AND CHILD WITH HIM.
AUGH

THE GIRL MUST BE NO OLDER THAN FOURTEEN, FIFTEEN, PERHAPS.
HOW HORRIBLE ...

IN YOU GO.
HERR GEORG VON STEINFELD.
NEXT.
DELIVER ME FROM THE MOUTH OF THE WOLF
PRESERVE ME FROM EVIL.
LORD, HELP ME.
YOU TRY TO LOOK AS UTTERLY STUPID AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
I'LL HANDLE CONVERSATION.
DO NOT REPLY IF TALKED TO.
AVOID MAKING EYE CONTACT.
WE'LL DO AS AGREED.

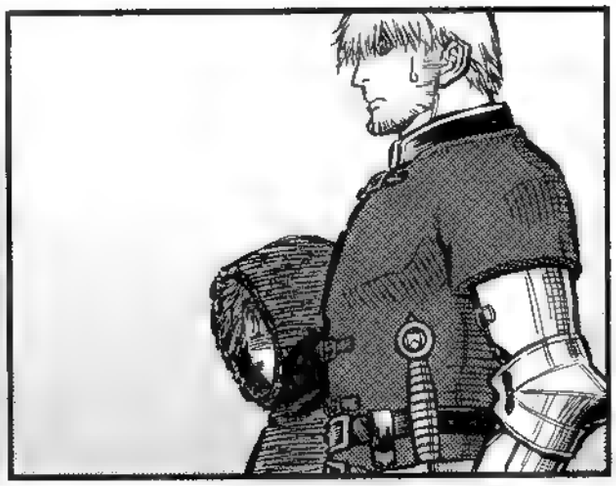

SIR KNIGHT, I'D HAVE MY RETAINER PAY A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION TO HIS PERSONAL HYGIENE, IF I WERE YOU
OH GOD
UGH ...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOUNTS

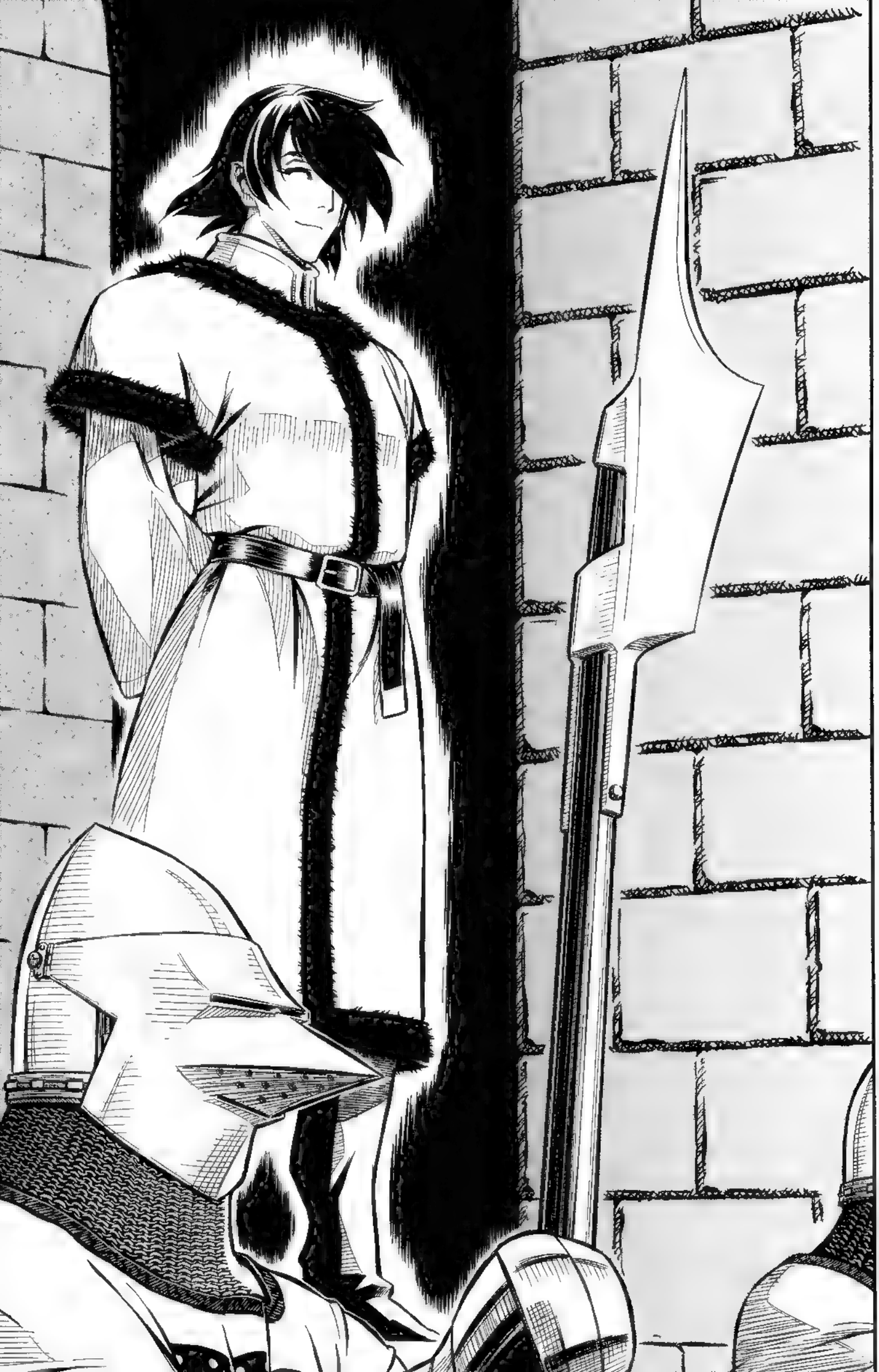

WELCOME, SIR KNIGHT.

YOU MAY CALL ME WOLFRAM.
I AM THE GOVERNOR OF THIS CHECKPOINT.
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
HE SEEMS SO KINDLY.

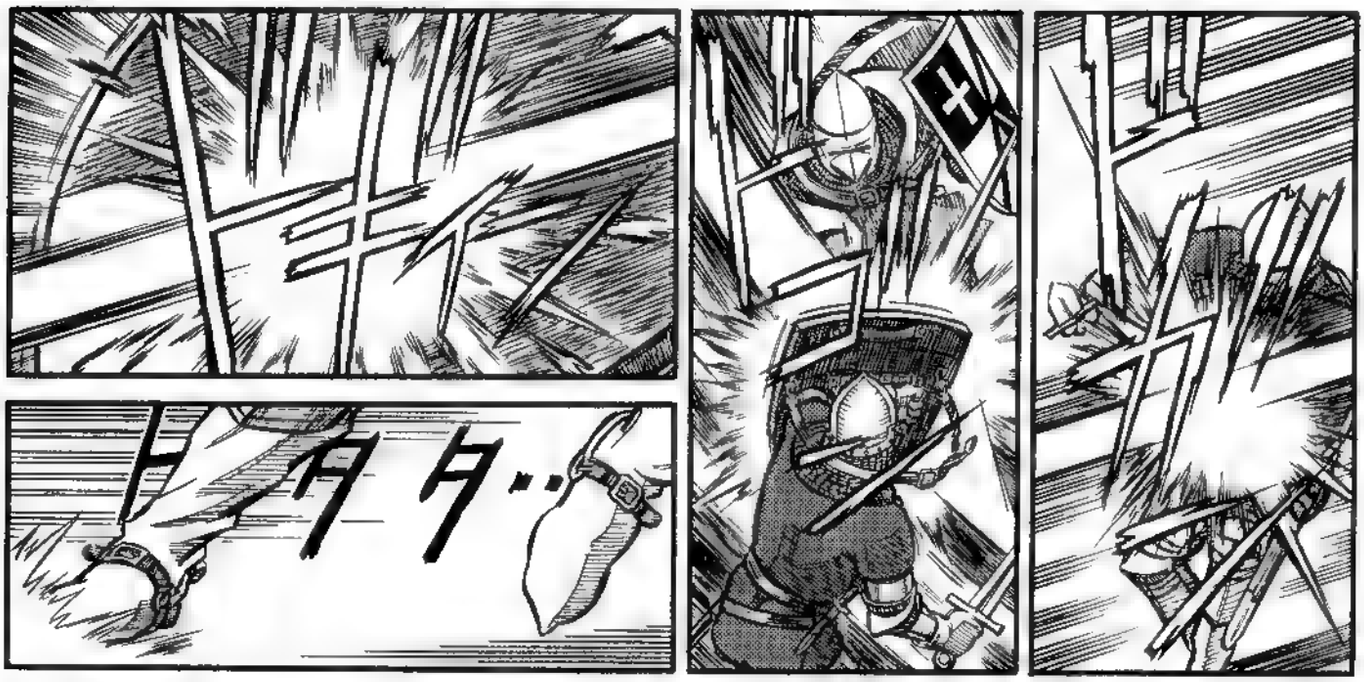
HE IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM HOW THE RUMORS MADE HIM SOUND.





YOU SHOULD HAVE A PASS ISSUED BY THE FEUDAL LORD, THEN.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU PREPARED ONE?
AN INITIATION JOURNEY, IS IT...?
...NO MATTER HOW TIME-HONORED THE TRADITION...
...IT'S STILL A DIFFERENT THING FROM ESTABLISHED LAW.
REGRET-FULLY...
I DON'T NEED A PASS FOR AN INITIATION JOURNEY.
IT'S AN OLD CUSTOM.
AN INCREAS-ING NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO AVOID SEARCHING...
...UNDER THE GUISE OF INITIATION JOURNEY, AS OF LATE.
SO YOU CAN'T BLAME A CAREFUL OBSERVER FOR ALTOGETHER ESCHEWING LENIENCY...

HE'S AN ENCOURAGE-MENT GIFT AWARDED BY MY MASTER.
THIS IS BURGTOR, HEAD OF THE GATEKEEPERS.
SO...
HERE'S A LITTLE SUGGESTION.
S.R.
BURG-TOR.
...AND I SHAN'T DELAY YOU ANY FURTHER.
GRACE US WITH A DEMON-STRATION OF YOUR SKILL...
NOW HOW ABOUT...
...TESTING YOUR METTLE AGAINST HIS?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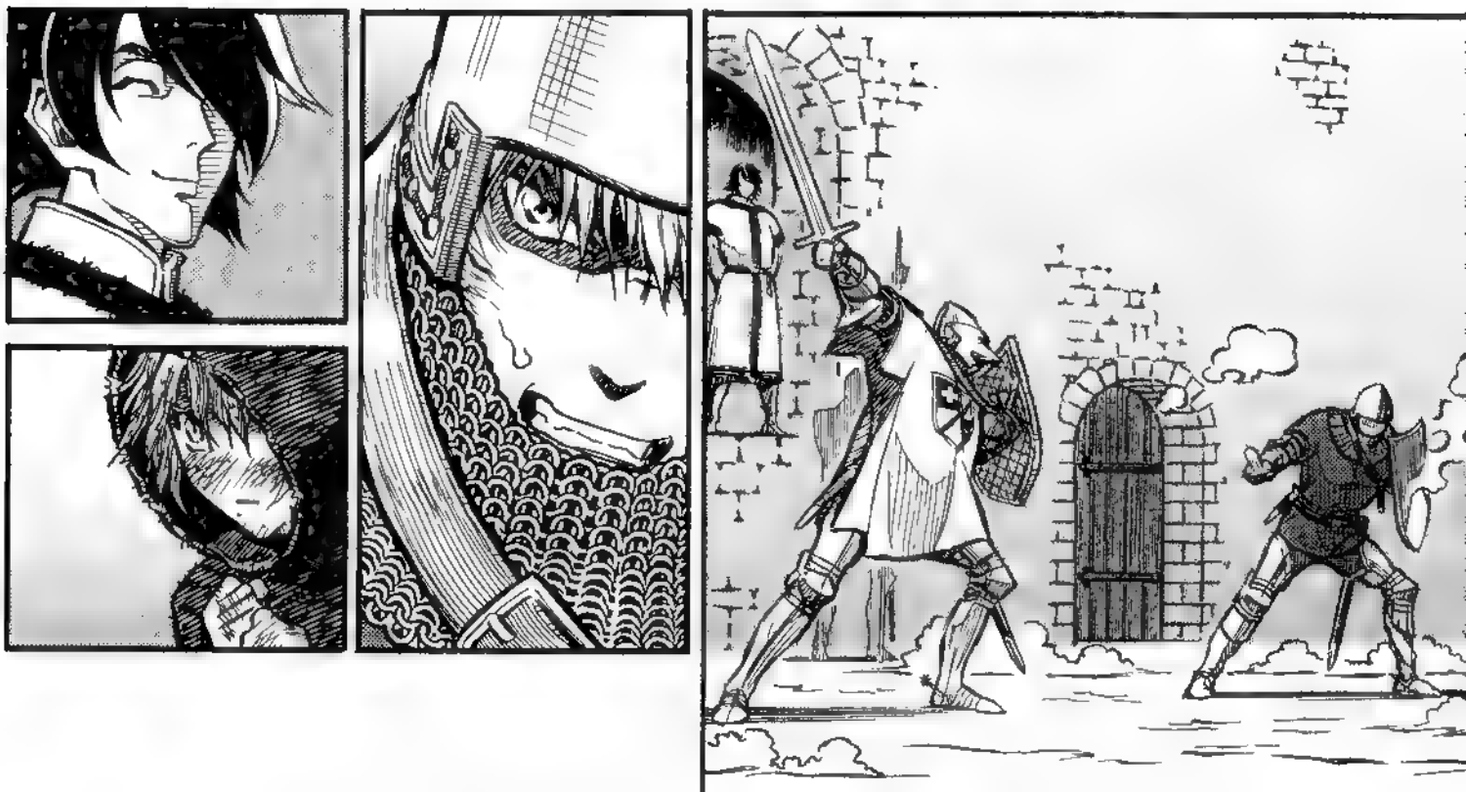
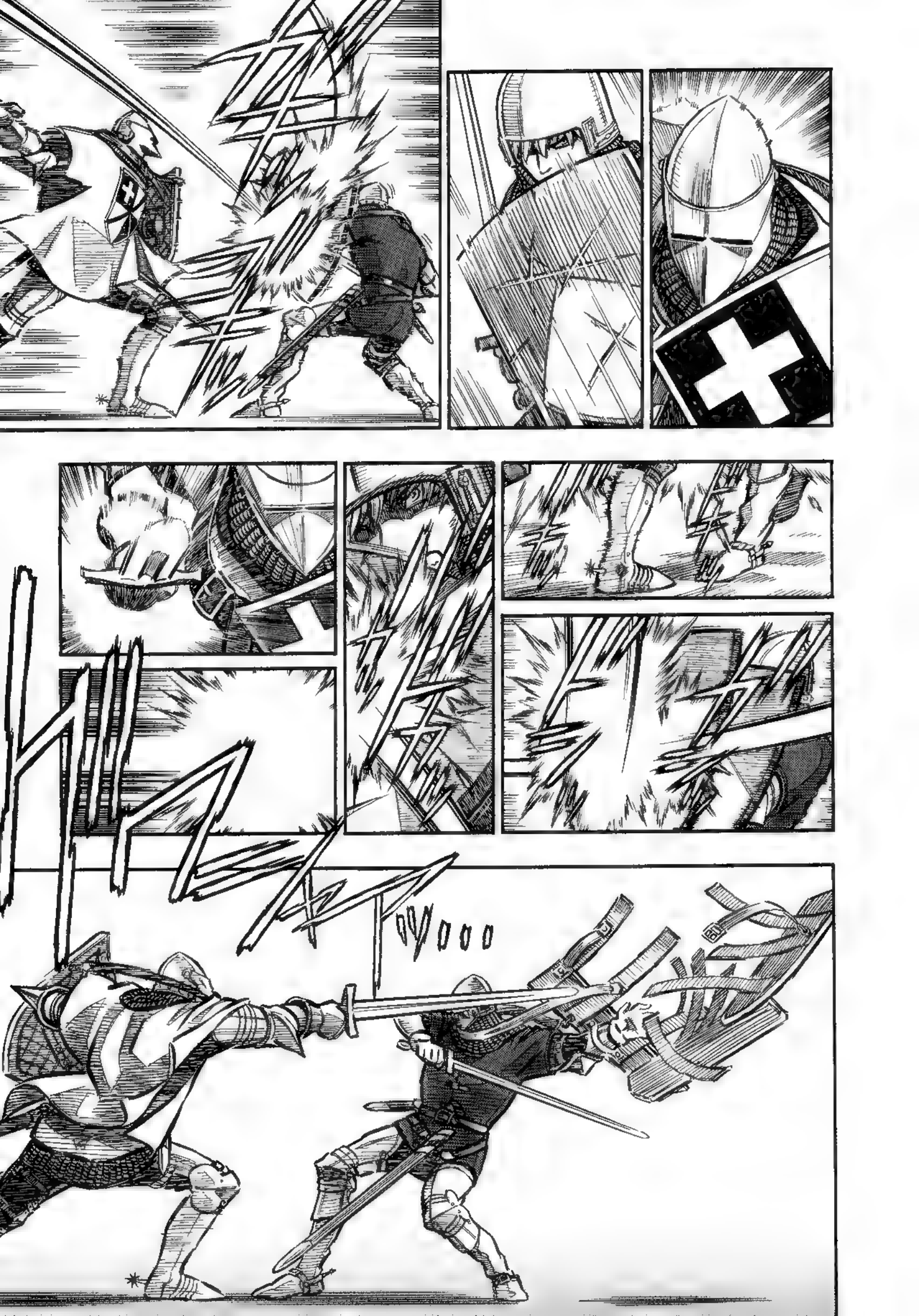
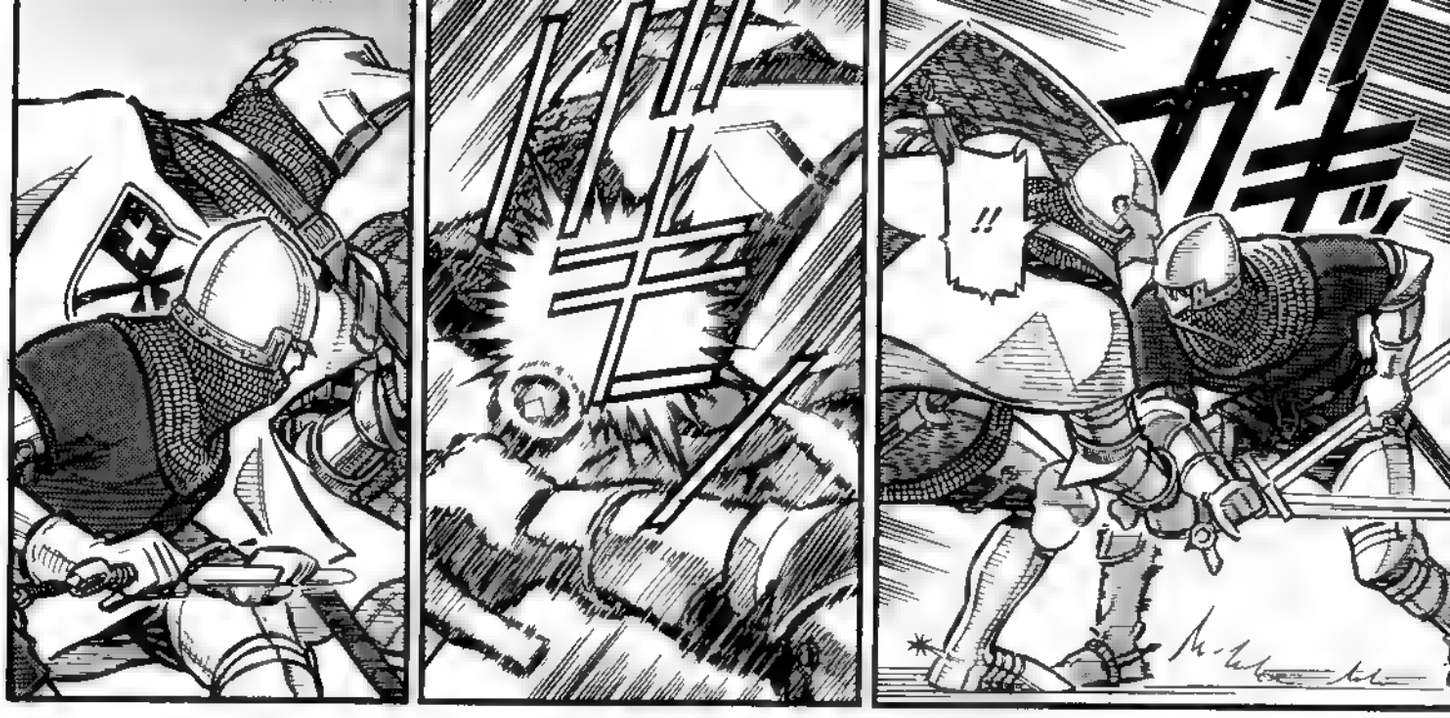
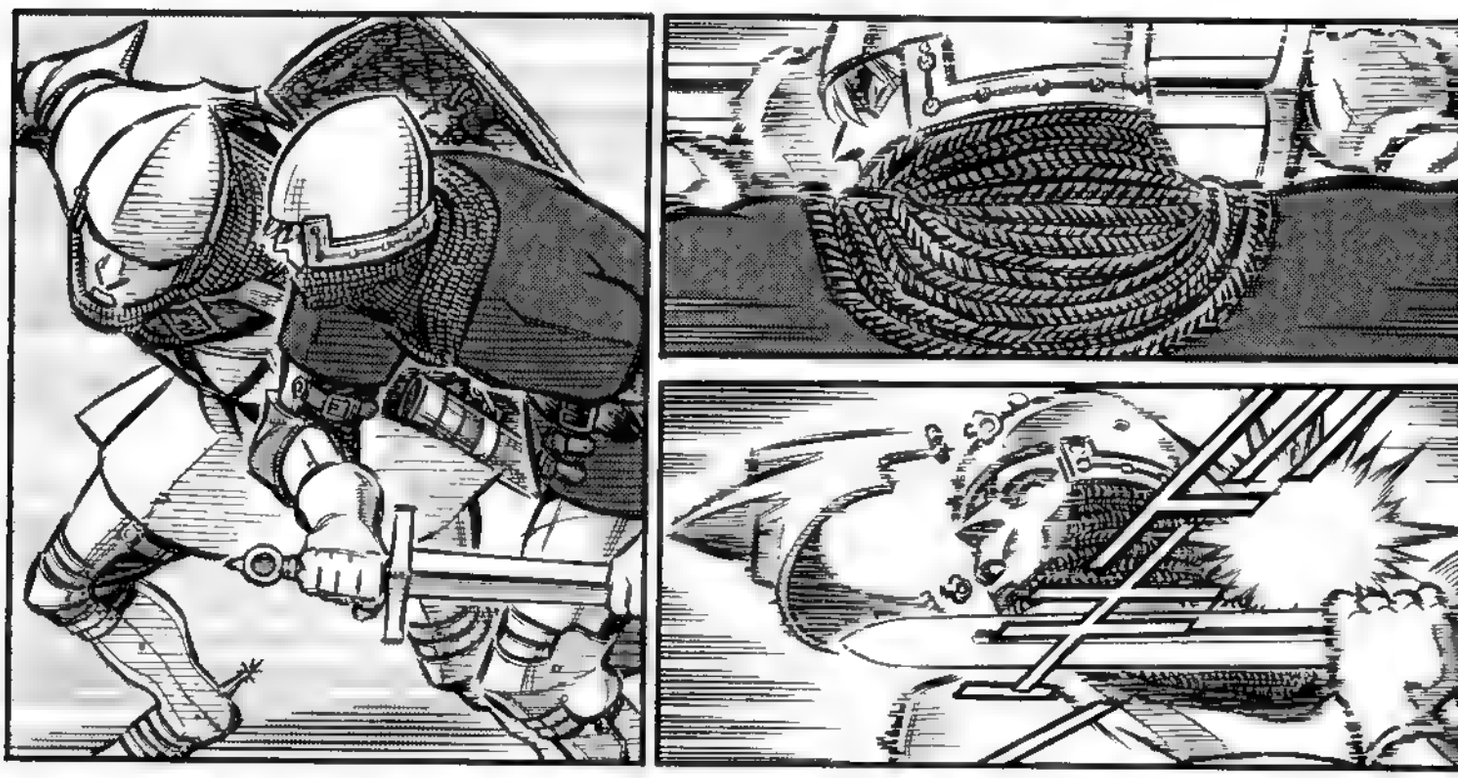




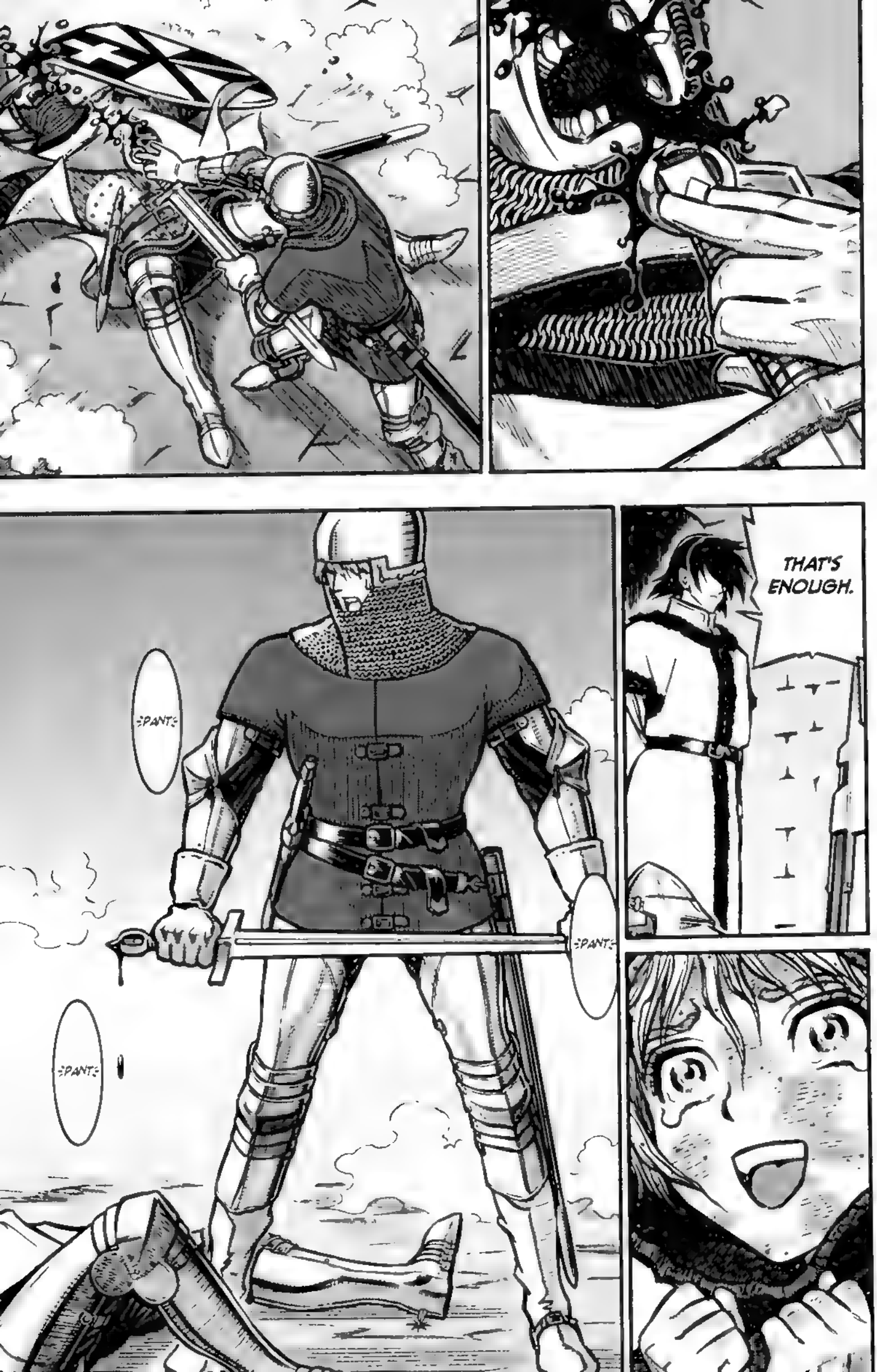
HERR GEORG!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SWORD IN YOUR RIGHT HAND?
YOU DON'T STAND MUCH CHANCE OF WINNING ...
...IF YOU REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE, YOU KNOW?
PANT
PANT
PANT
IT'S A BIT TOO LATE TO GET IN THE RIGHT MOOD...
...NOW THAT YOUR SHIELD IS GONE.
HMPH

UGH.
GASP!
YOUNG FOOL
A REAL MOLLUSK

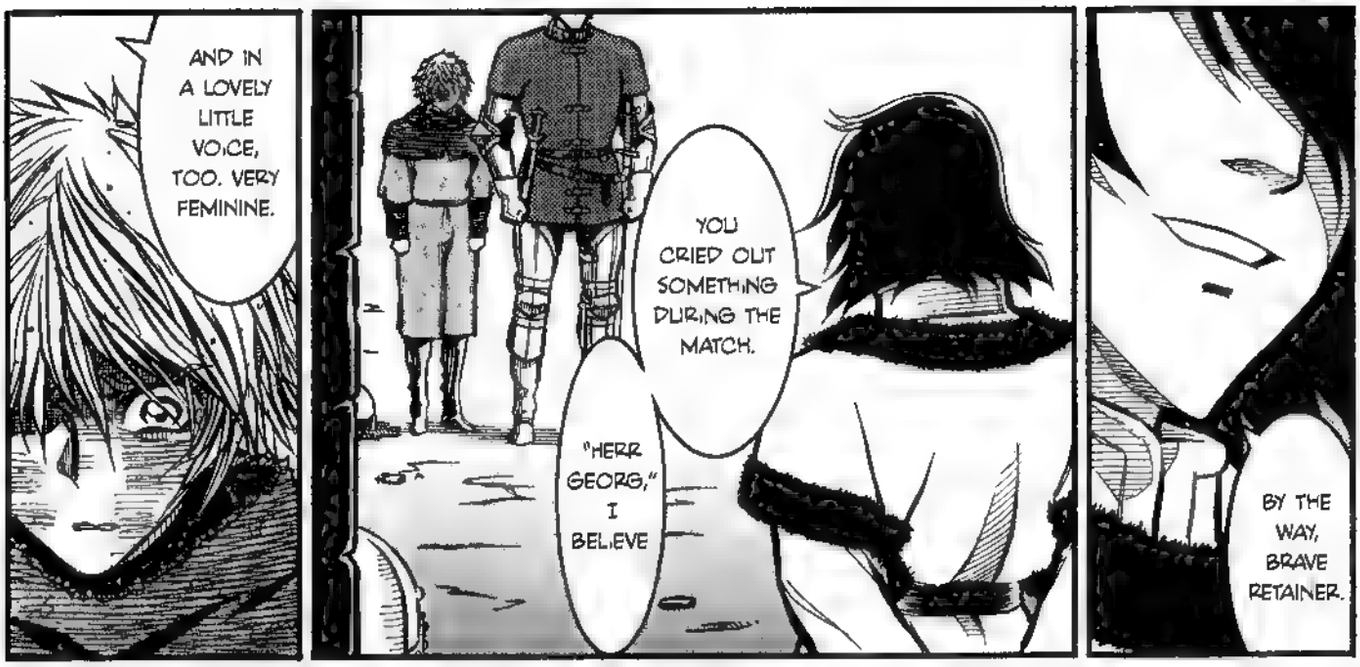


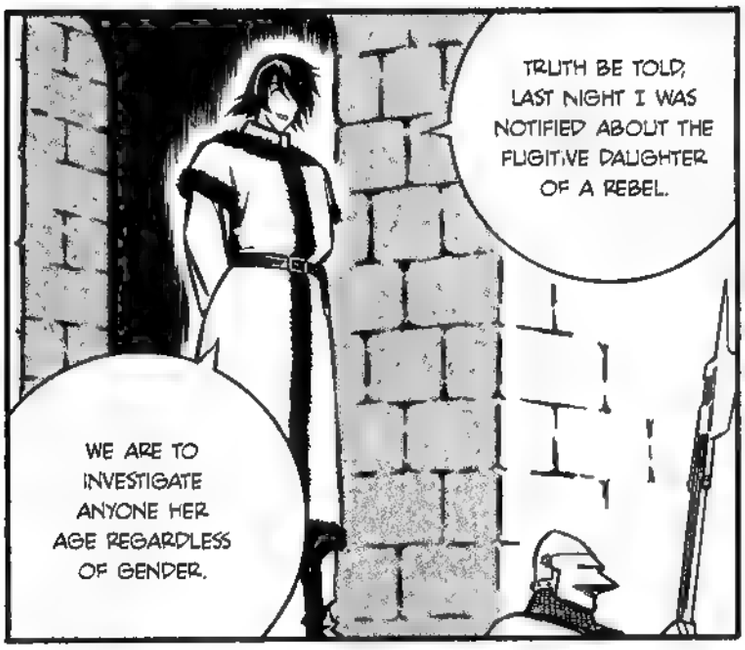


KOOOAAAR


THAT'S ENOUGH.
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:

SO...
I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS.
HOW-EVER,
THERE IS ONE LAST THING I NEED TO INVESTIGATE
CER-TAINLY.
YOU'LL BE COMPEN-SATED FOR YOUR SHIELD, AS WELL.
Phew
WHAT ABOUT OUR RIGHT OF PASSAGE?
DO YOU RECOG-NIZE IT, THEN?
I SEE.
WHAT IMPOLITENESS INDEED.


AND IN A LOVELY LITTLE VOICE, TOO. VERY FEMININE.
YOU CRIED OUT SOMETHING DURING THE MATCH.
"HERR GEORG," I BELIEVE
BY THE WAY, BRAVE RETAINER.

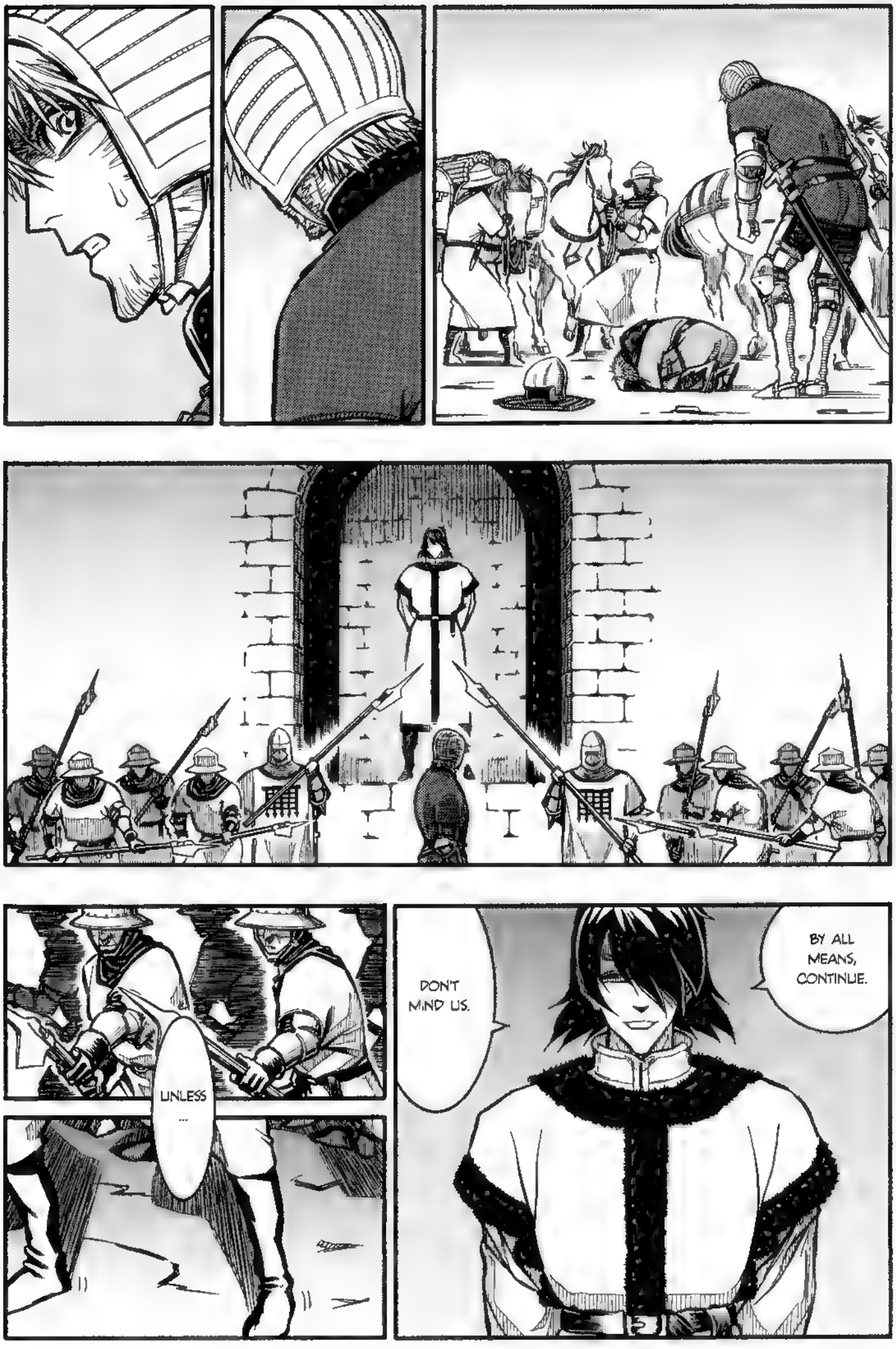

TRUTH BE TOLD, LAST NIGHT I WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT THE FUGITIVE DAUGHTER OF A REBEL.
WE ARE TO INVESTIGATE ANYONE HER AGE REGARDLESS OF GENDER.

...HIS VOICE HAS YET TO CHANGE. HE'S STILL A YOUNG BOY...
THAT'S BE-CAUSE ...
I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE.

HE COULD UNCOVER HIS CHEST, FOR EXAMPLE.
AS PROOF THAT HE REALLY IS A MALE.

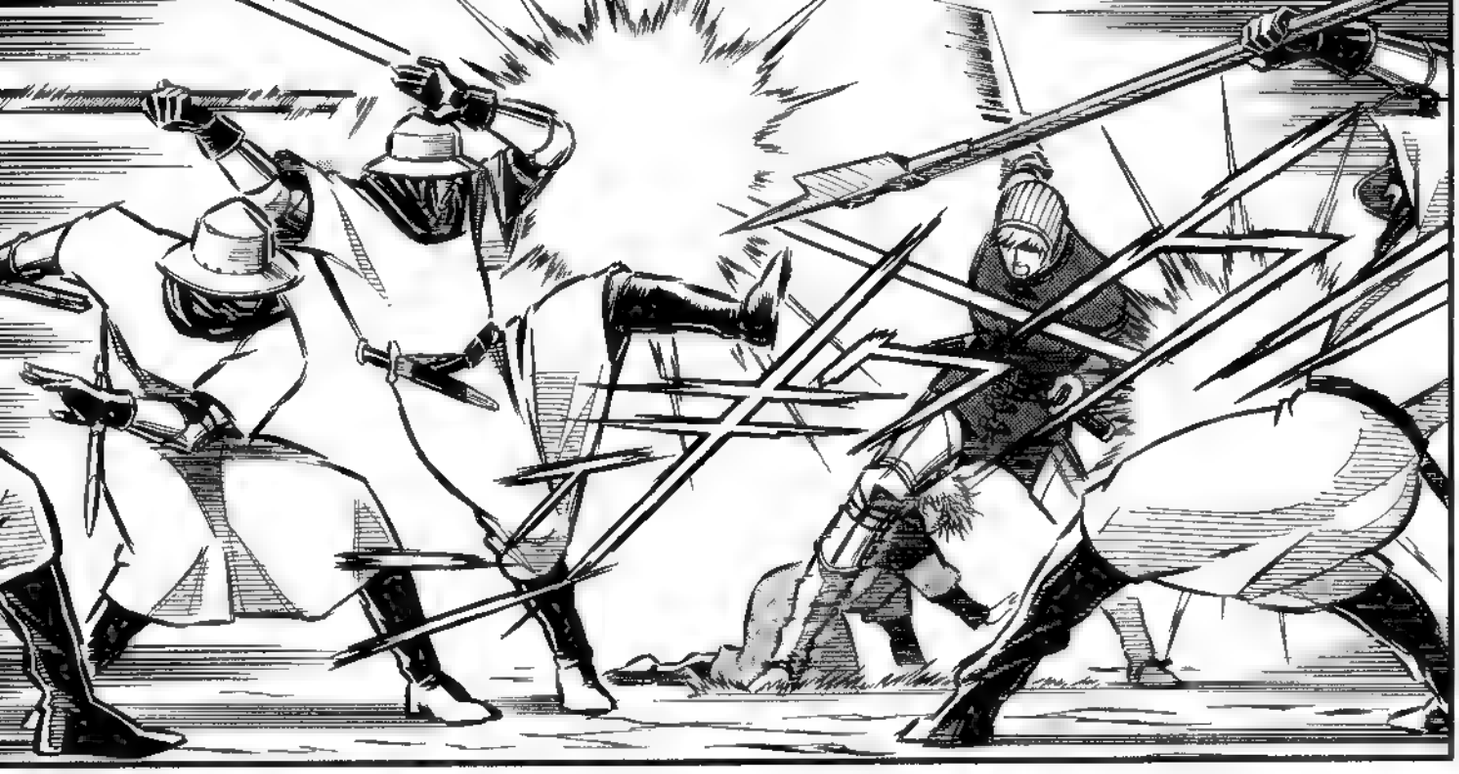
UNH
...
...!!

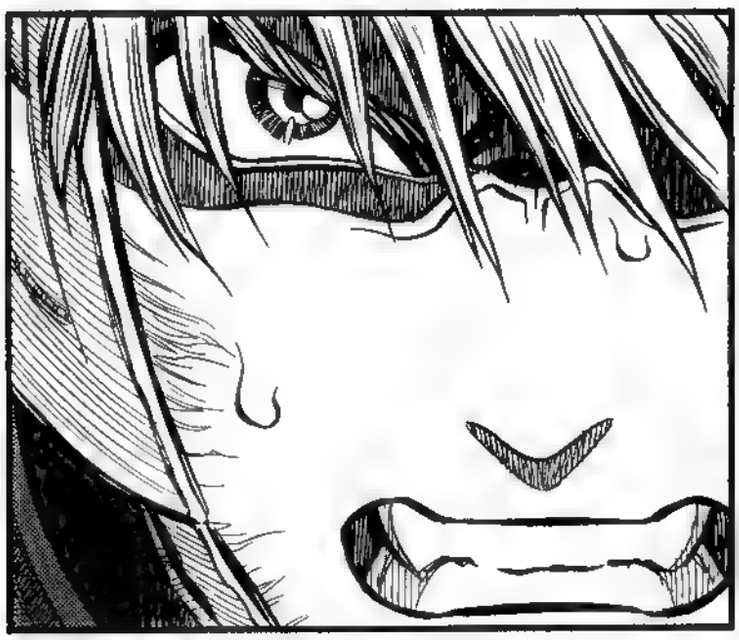
BECAUSE I WAS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HIRE YOU.
NOW I'M COVERED IN SHAME BY YOUR FAULT.
HOW CAN A BOY BE SO EFFEMINATE?!
I DO YOU A GOOD TURN AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME.
... USELESS SCUM!
WHY, YOU ...
!

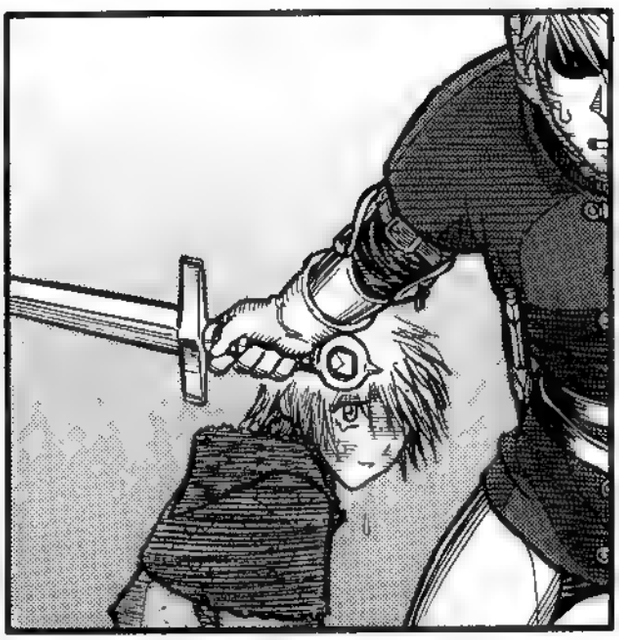

BY ALL MEANS, CONTINUE.
DON'T MIND US.
UNLESS ...

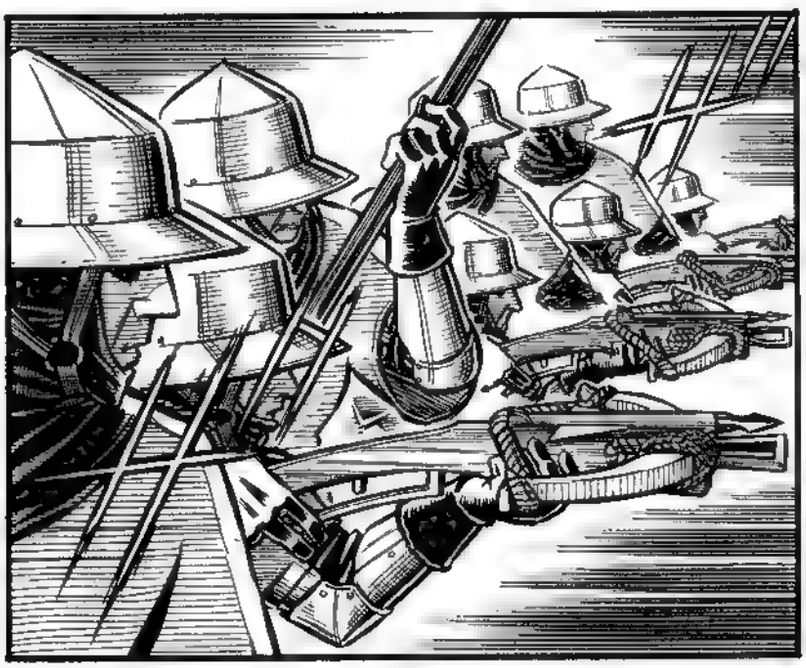
...!!
...YOU'RE READY TO PUT AN END...
...TO THIS LITTLE COMEDY?

!
SEIZE THEM.
!!
NO...
PINCH









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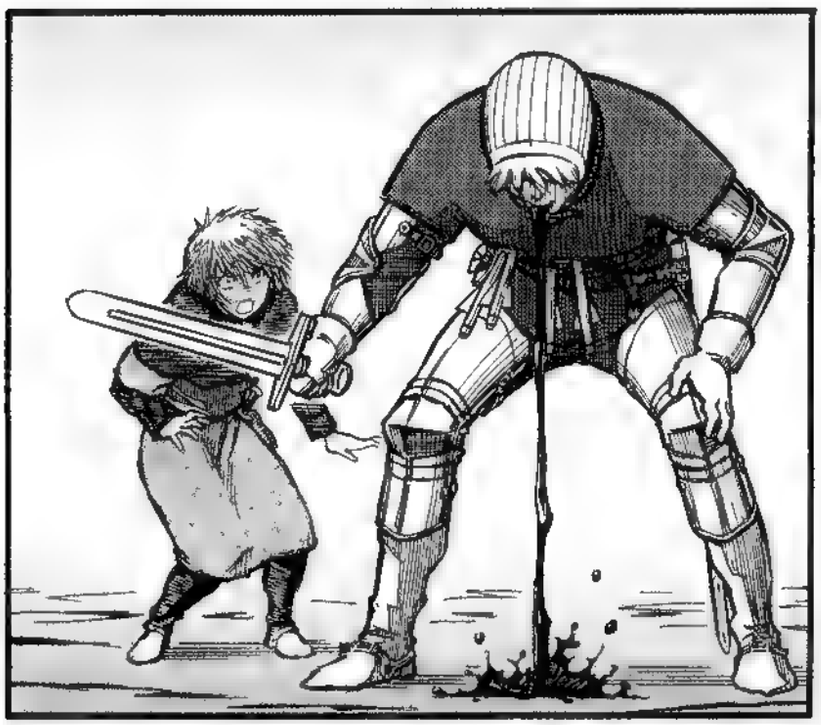
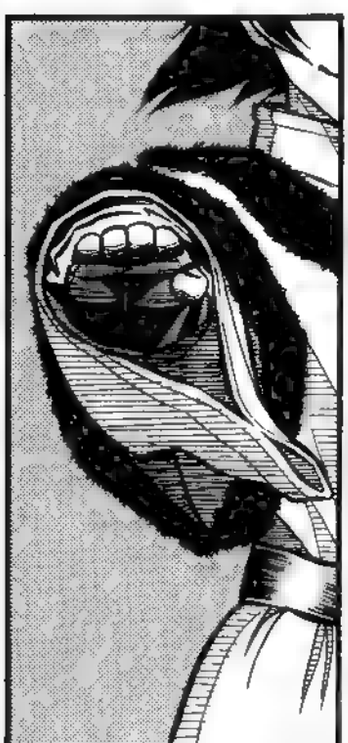
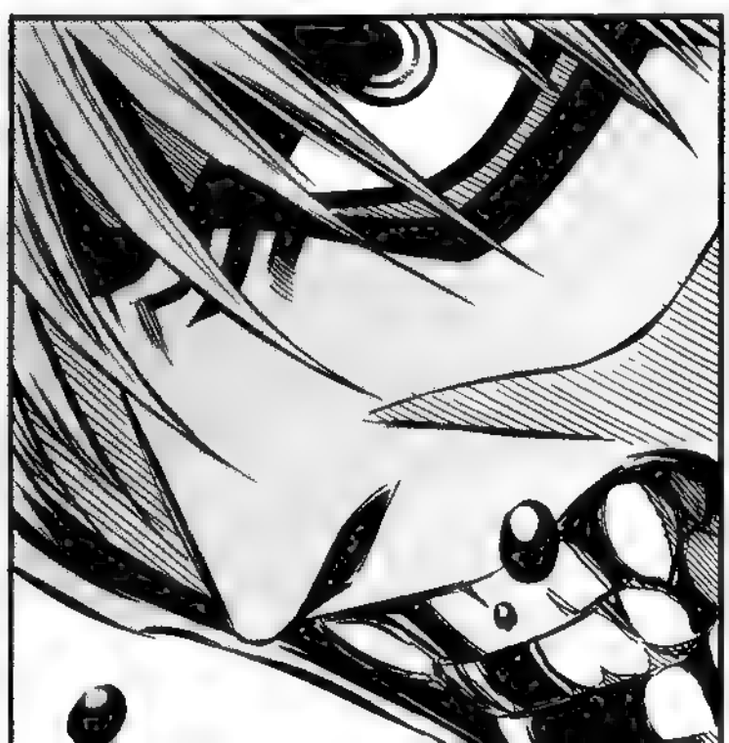


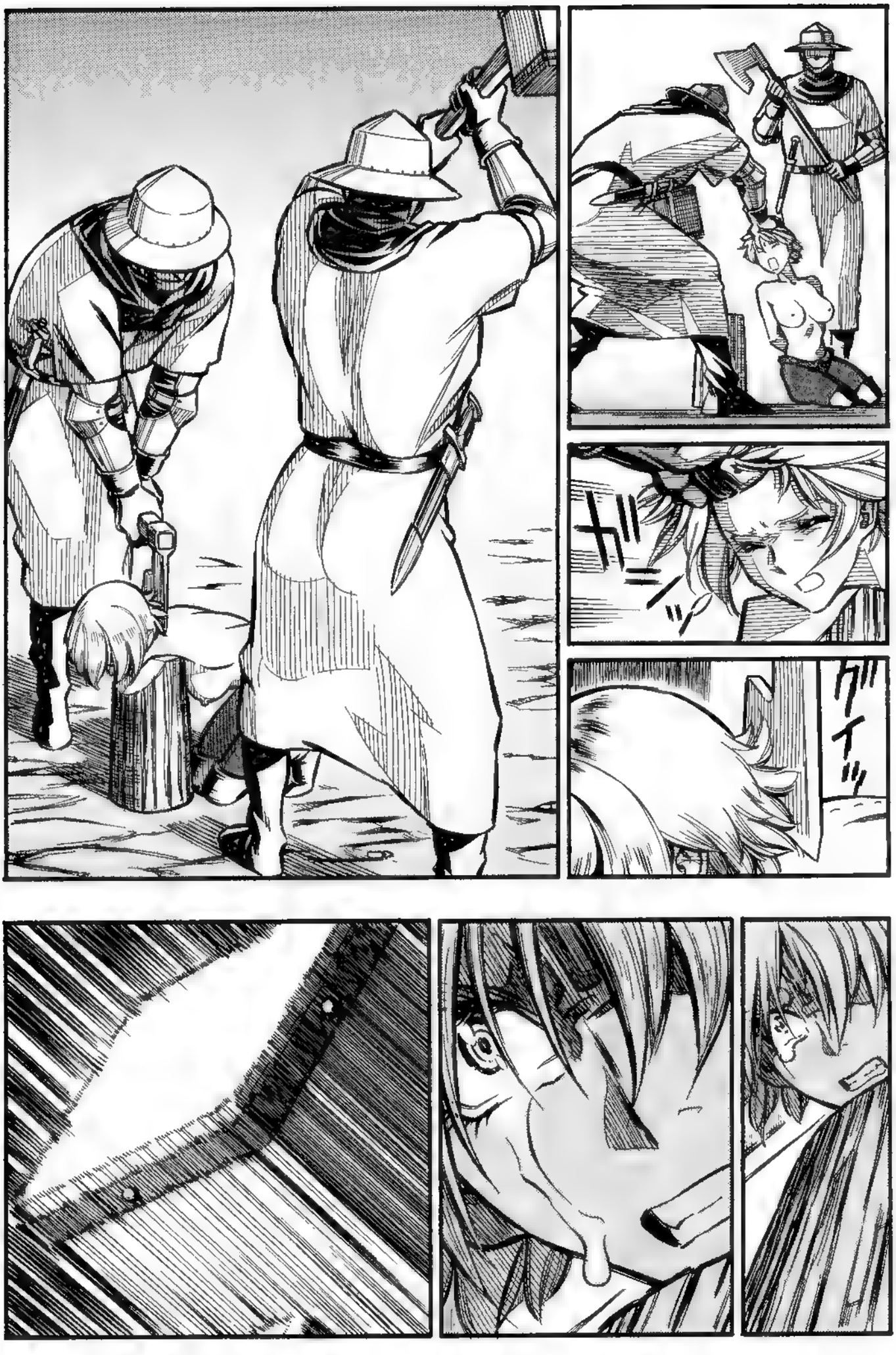




...
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

HERR WOLFRAM.
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.
HER PUNISHMENT IS NOT YOURS TO DECIDE.
WHATEVER HAPPENS AT THIS CHECKPOINT WILL BE HANDLED AT THE CHECKPOINT.
AS THE CUSTODIAN OF THIS GATE, SUCH IS MY MISSION.
CEASE IMMEDIATELY AND HAND HER OVER.
EXECUTING HER IS OUR DUTY.

ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT ONE'S WAY PAST A CHECKPOINT IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
NO ONE, WHOEVER THEY ARE, IS ABOVE THE LAW.
WE CAN'T START MAKING EXCEPTIONS. EXCEPTIONS MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN ORDER.
...
NOW...
...LET THE PENALTY...
... COMMENCE.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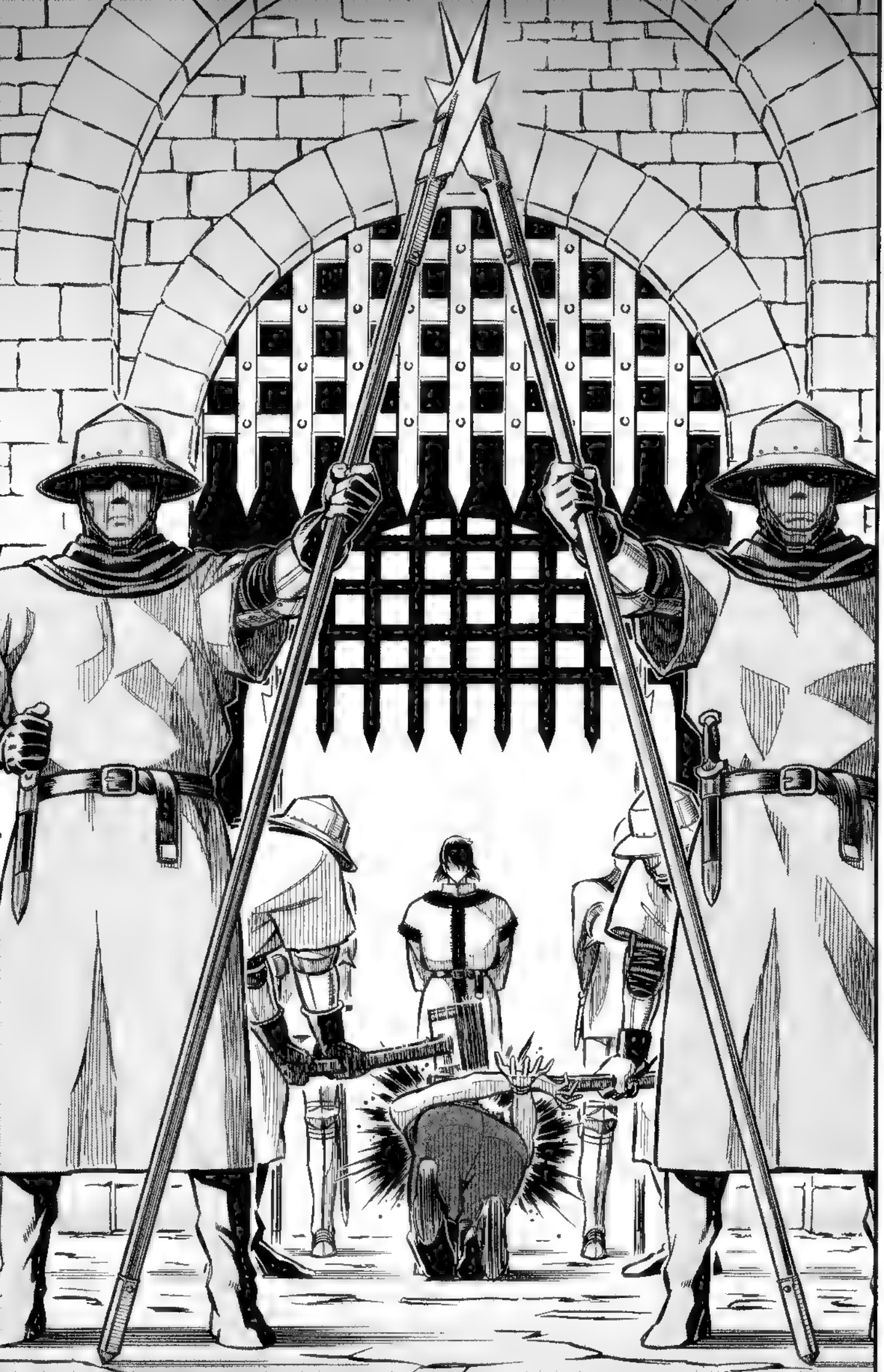
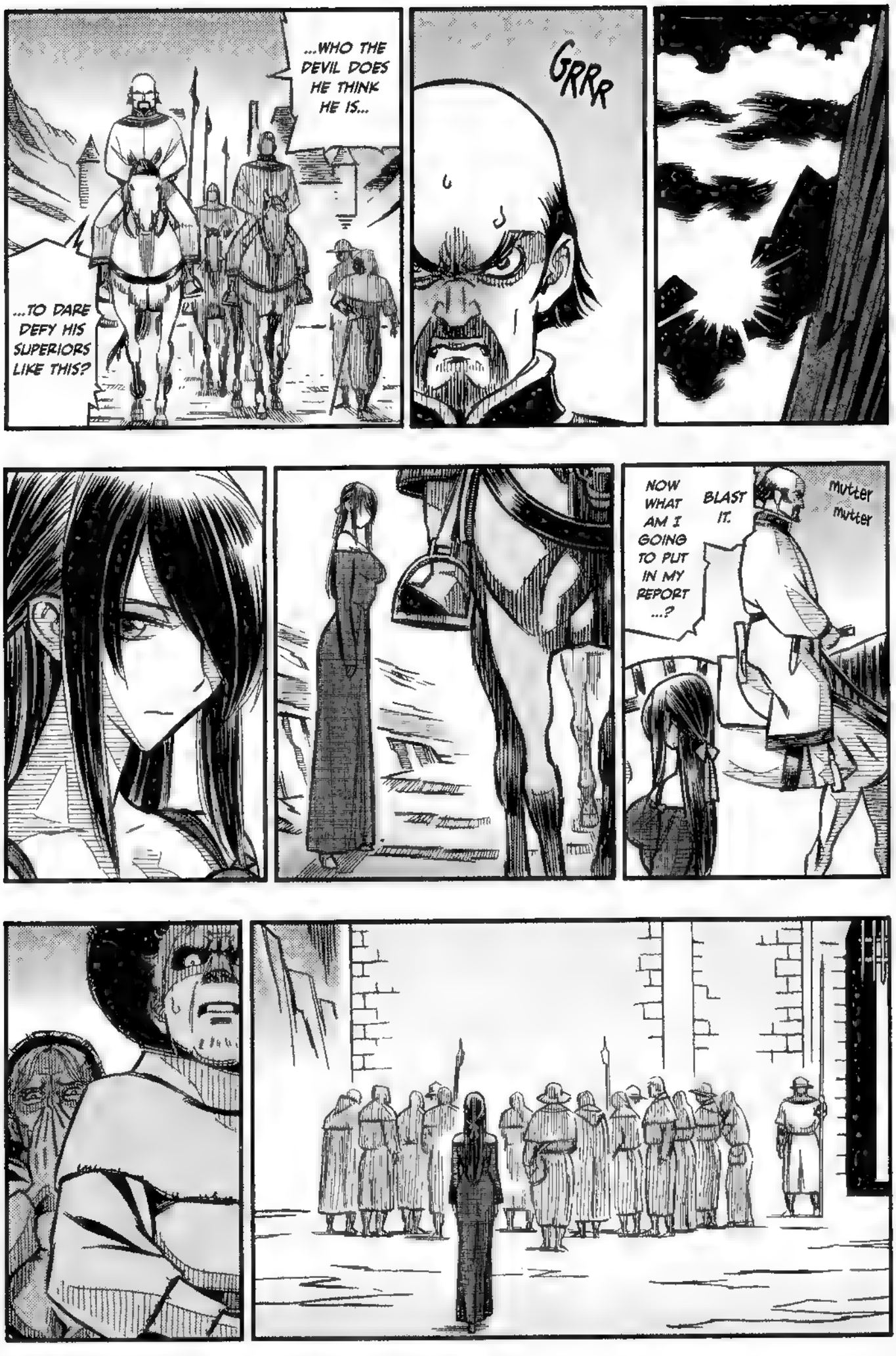
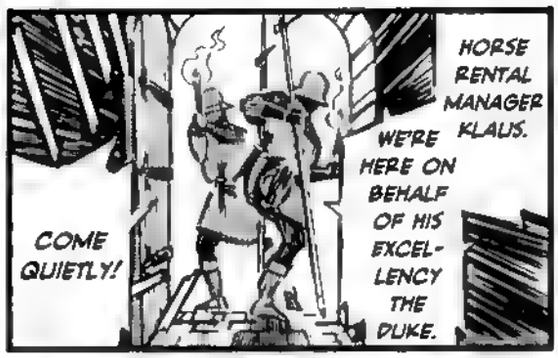



...WHO THE DEVIL DOES HE THINK HE IS...
...TO DARE DEFY HIS SUPERIORS LIKE THIS?
GRRR
NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO PUT IN MY REPORT ...?
BLAST IT.
mutter mutter

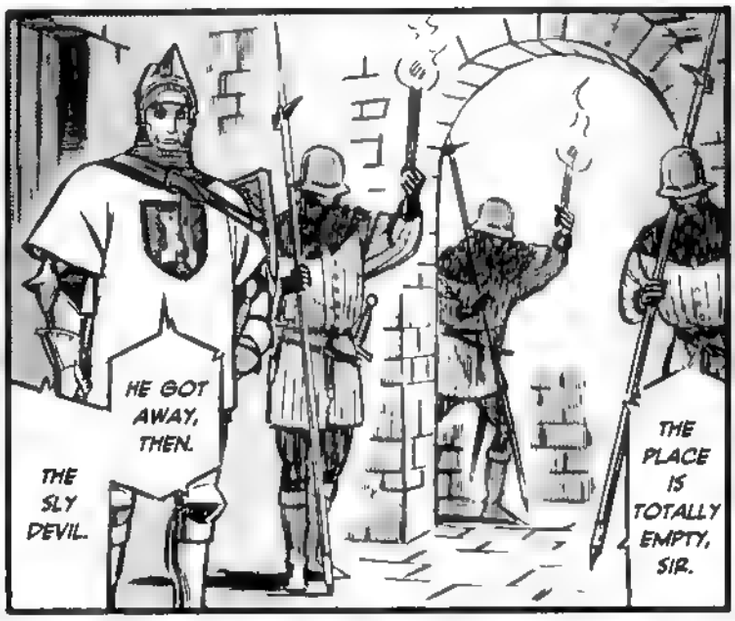
TODAY AT WOLFSMUND, TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DECAPITATED, AND THEIR HEADS EXPOSED OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Chapter 2
Johanna and Klaus


HORSE RENTAL MANAGER KLAUS.
WE'RE HERE ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCEL-LENCY THE DUKE.
COME QUIETLY!

ARREST HIM!
YES, SIR!

HE CAN'T HAVE GONE VERY FAR.
AFTER HIM.


HE GOT AWAY, THEN.
THE SLY DEVIL.
THE PLACE IS TOTALLY EMPTY, SIR.

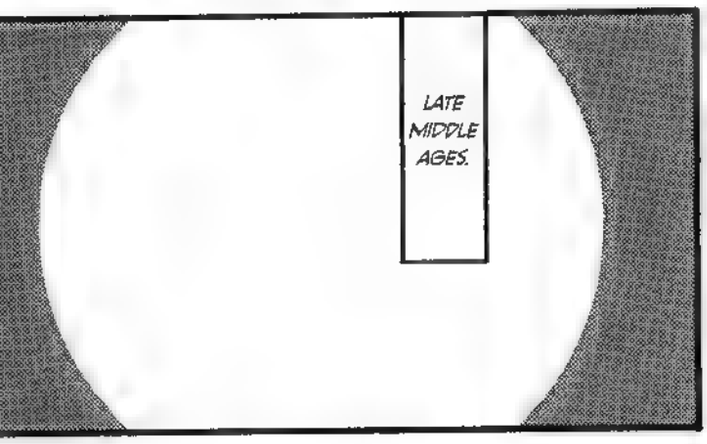
HE'S GONE ?!

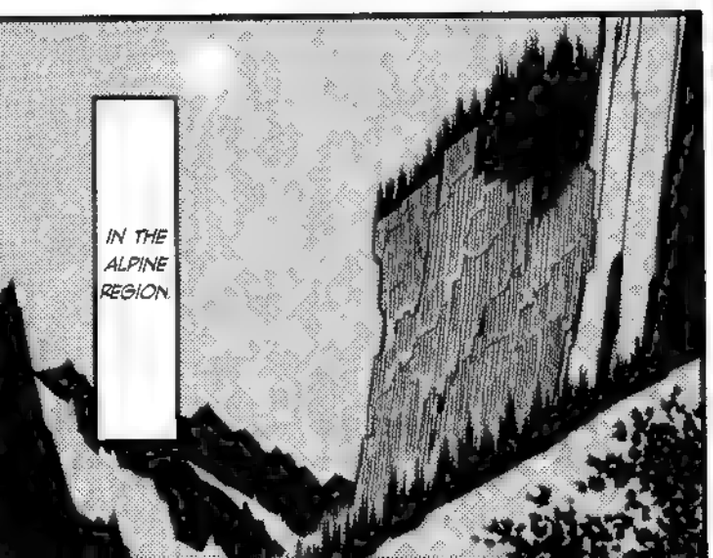
!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PRETTY MUCH OUR BIGGEST CATCH OF THE DAY, THAT ONE.
THIS GUY'S GOT TO BE KLAUS, ALL RIGHT
EEK!
MAS-TER.
AAGH!
CLAM IT!
STOP!
KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!

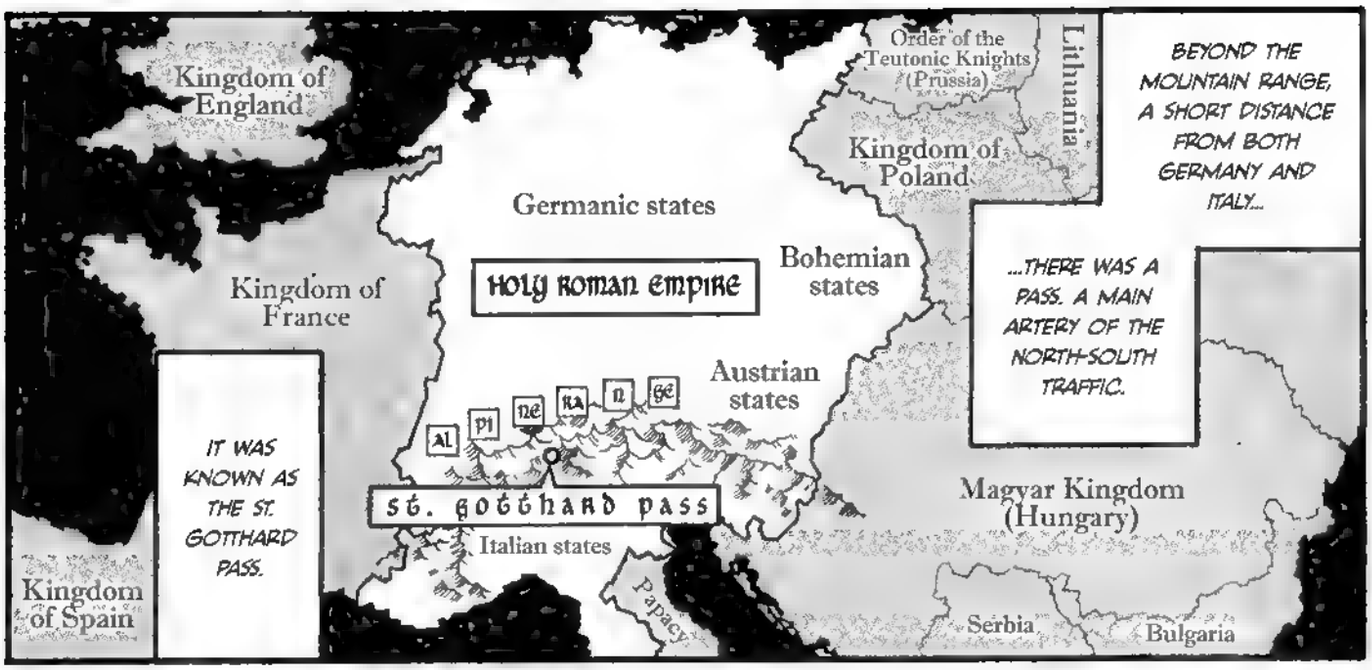
UNGH
!
WH-
WHY, YOU ...

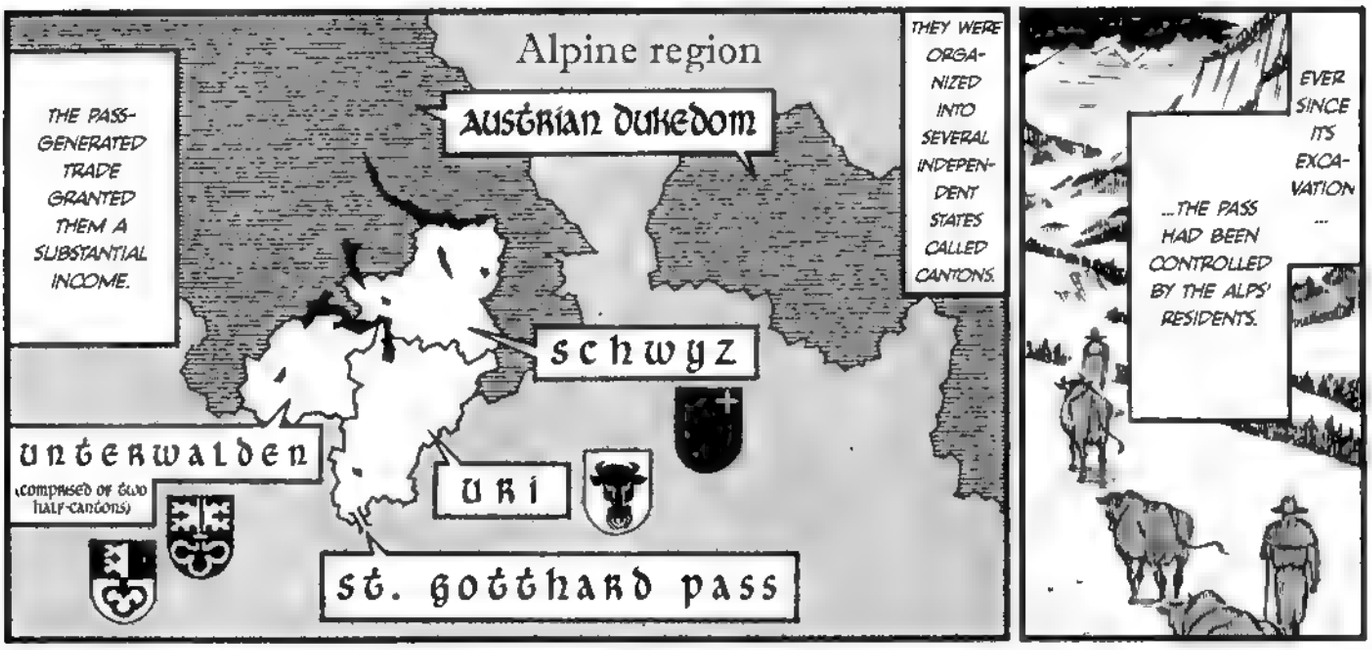
IT CANT BE...
IT...

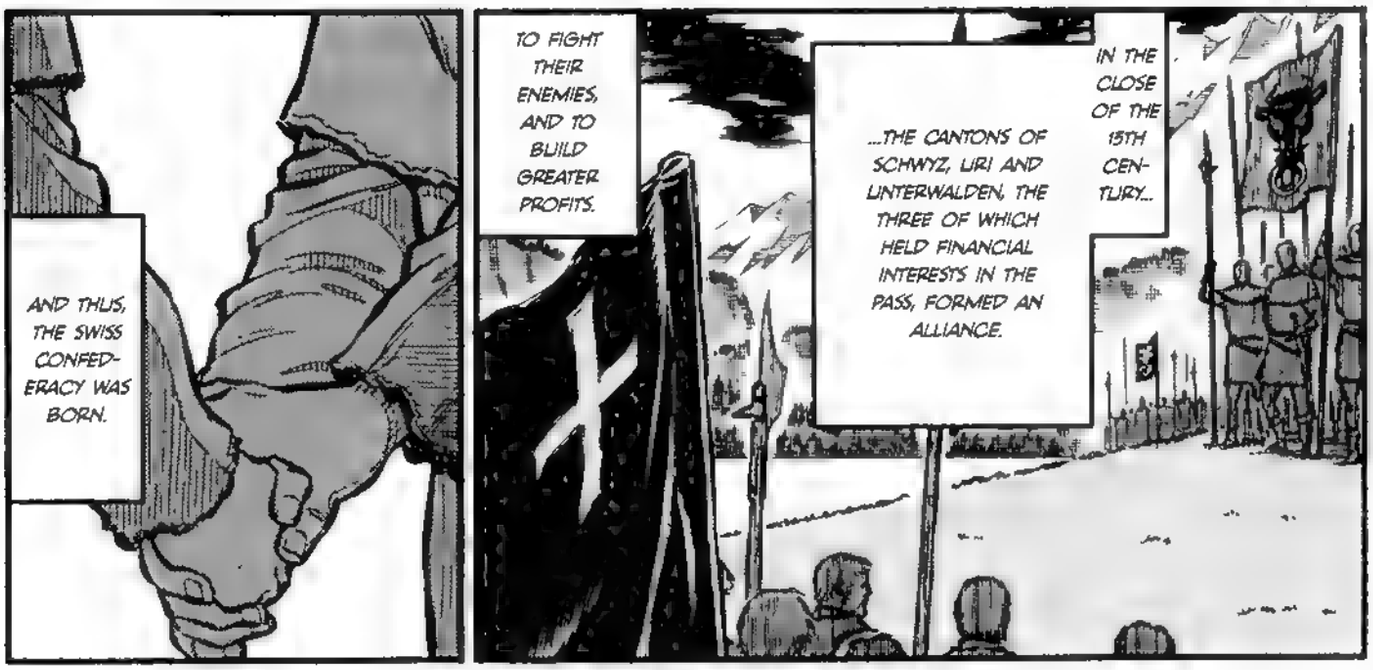
STEP AWAY FROM MY MASTER.
DO AS I SAY AND YOU'LL LIVE.
!!

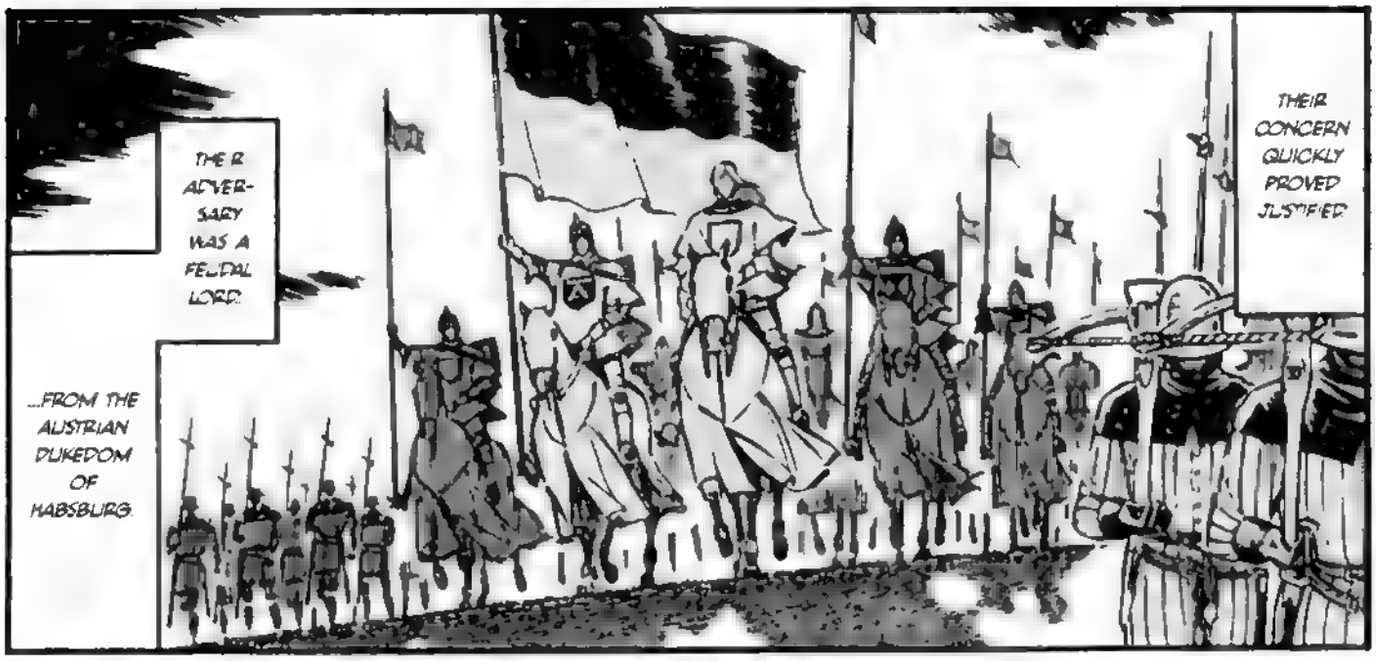

LATE MIDDLE AGES.

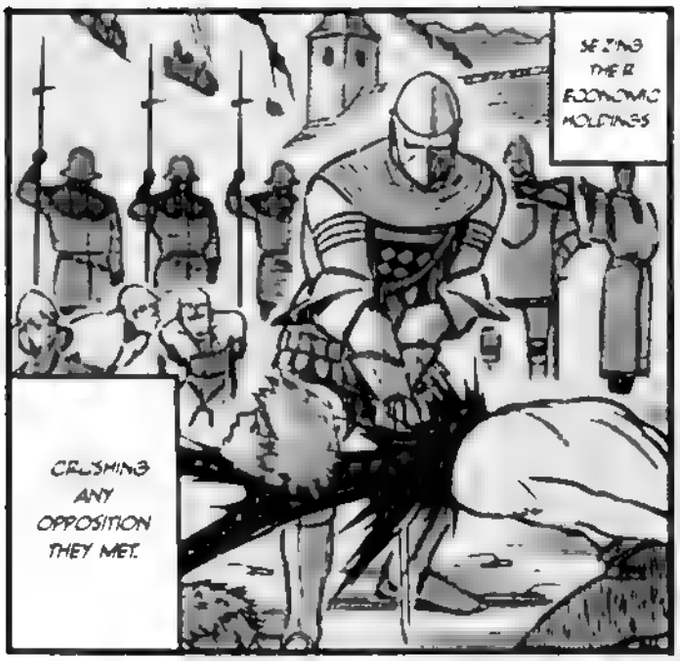

IN THE ALPINE REGION.


Kingdom of England
Order of the Teutonic Knights (Prussia)
Lithuania
Kingdom of Poland
Germanic states
Holy Roman Empire
Bohemian states
Kingdom of France
Austrian states
AL
PI
NE
RA
U
GE
St. Gotthard pass
Italian states
Magyar Kingdom (Hungary)
Papacy
Serbia
Bulgaria
Kingdom of Spain
IT WAS KNOWN AS THE ST. GOTTHARD PASS.
BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN RANGE, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM BOTH GERMANY AND ITALY...
...THERE WAS A PASS. A MAIN ARTERY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH TRAFFIC.

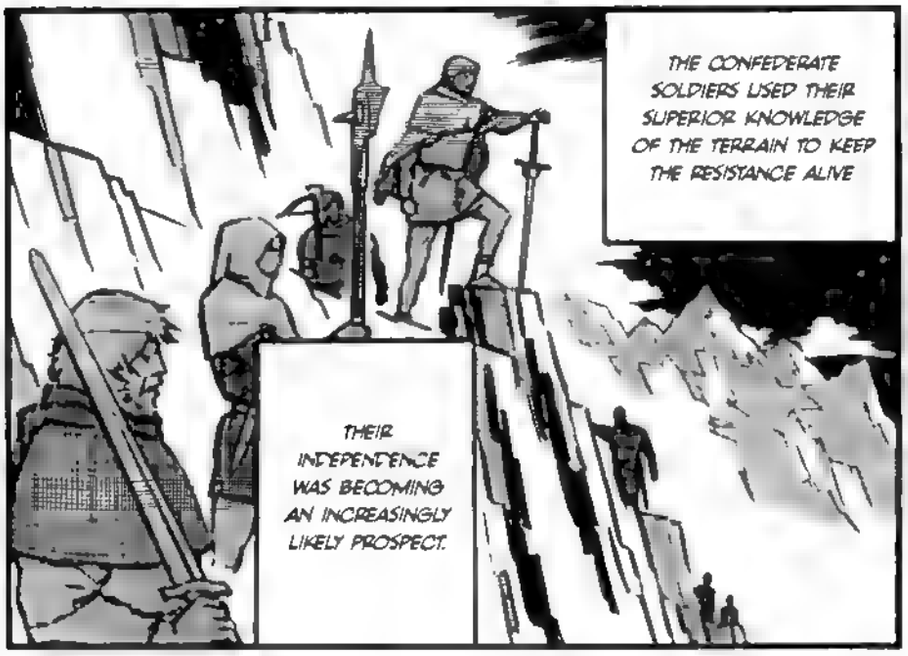

Alpine region
Austrian Dukedom
THE PASS-GENERATED TRADE GRANTED THEM A SUBSTANTIAL INCOME.
THEY WERE ORGANIZED INTO SEVERAL INDEPENDENT STATES CALLED CANTONS.
Schwyz
Unterwalden
(comprised of two half-cantons)
Uri
St. Gotthard pass
...THE PASS HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE ALPS' RESIDENTS.
EVER SINCE ITS EXCAVATION ...


AND THUS, THE SWISS CONFEDERACY WAS BORN.
TO FIGHT THEIR ENEMIES, AND TO BUILD GREATER PROFITS.
...THE CANTONS OF SCHWYZ, URI AND UNTERWALDEN, THE THREE OF WHICH HELD FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN THE PASS, FORMED AN ALLIANCE.
IN THE CLOSE OF THE 15TH CENTURY...


THEIR ADVERSARY WAS A FEUDAL LORD.
...FROM THE AUSTRIAN DUKEDOM OF HABSBURG.
THEIR CONCERN QUICKLY PROVED JUSTIFIED.


SEIZING THEIR ECONOMIC HOLDINGS
CRUSHING ANY OPPOSITION THEY MET.

DUKE LEOPOLD'S ARMIES OCCUPIED THE FEDERATED LANDS


THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS USED THEIR SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN TO KEEP THE RESISTANCE ALIVE
THEIR INDEPENDENCE WAS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY LIKELY PROSPECT.

SUCH TYRANNY, HOWEVER
...STIRRED THE EMBERS OF REBELLION.

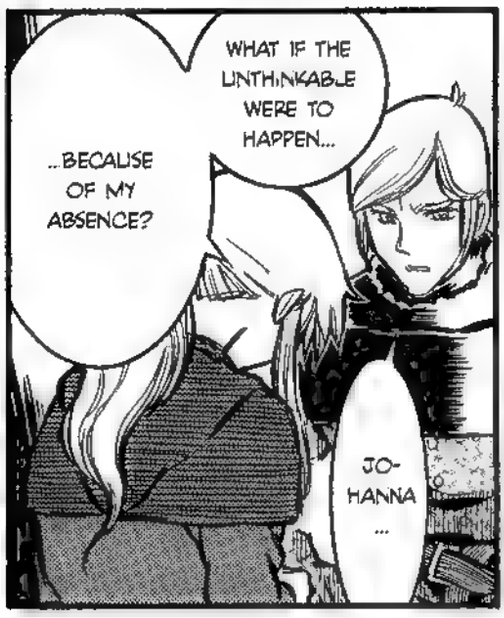
CAN-TON OF URI
IN THE WAKE OF THE 14TH CENTURY
OH, KLAUS
I FEARED THE WORST HAD HAPPENED.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU UN-HARMED
THIS IS THE STRONGEST WARRIOR MAIDEN IN ALL OF URI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
SHE'S KNOWN AS THE *LIGHT-NINGSTRIKE SORCERESS* FOR A REASON.
IN-DEED
IF JOHANNA HADN'T BEEN AROUND...
...I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE MADE IT HERE

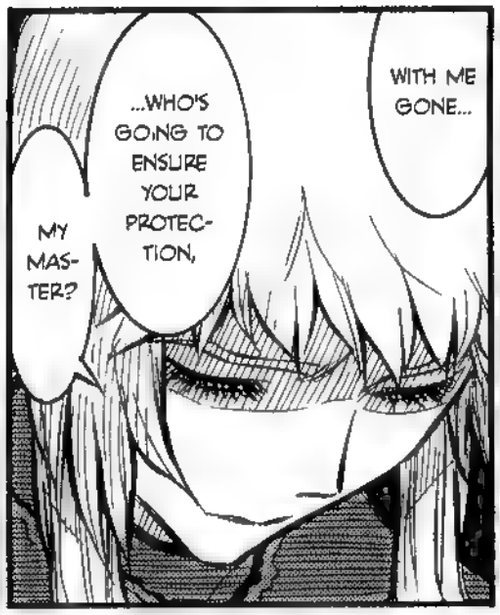
AND THE GOLD'S PRECISELY WHAT THEY WANT.
THEY SEEK TO CUT OFF OUR MOVEMENT'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES.
...BUT THE GOLD IS SECURE IN THE FLORENTINE BANK WHERE WE LEFT IT.
THE ENEMY CONTROLS OUR ESTATE...
IT ASCERTAINS THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF MY TRANSACTIONS.
HERE'S MY SIGNET RING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU, JOHANNA.
I NEED YOU TO DELIVER THIS.
BEYOND THE PASS, IN THE CITY OF LUGANO LIVES A FRIEND OF OURS.
HE'LL HAVE THE DOCUMENT.
...YOU CAN WITHDRAW ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY OUR WAY TO FREEDOM.
WITH THIS RING AND A PROMISSORY NOTE IN HAND...

GATHER SOME WEAP-ONS...
...AND RALLY OUR COMPA-TRIOTS ABROAD.

I NEED YOU TO TRAIN WARRIORS ...
...AND LEAD THEM.

YOU WOULD HAVE ME LEAVE YOUR SIDE...
...WHILE YOU ARE IN SUCH GREAT DANGER?


WHAT IF THE UNTHINKABLE WERE TO HAPPEN...
..BECAUSE OF MY ABSENCE?
JO-HANNA ...


WITH ME GONE...
...WHO'S GOING TO ENSURE YOUR PROTEC-TION,
MY MAS-TER?

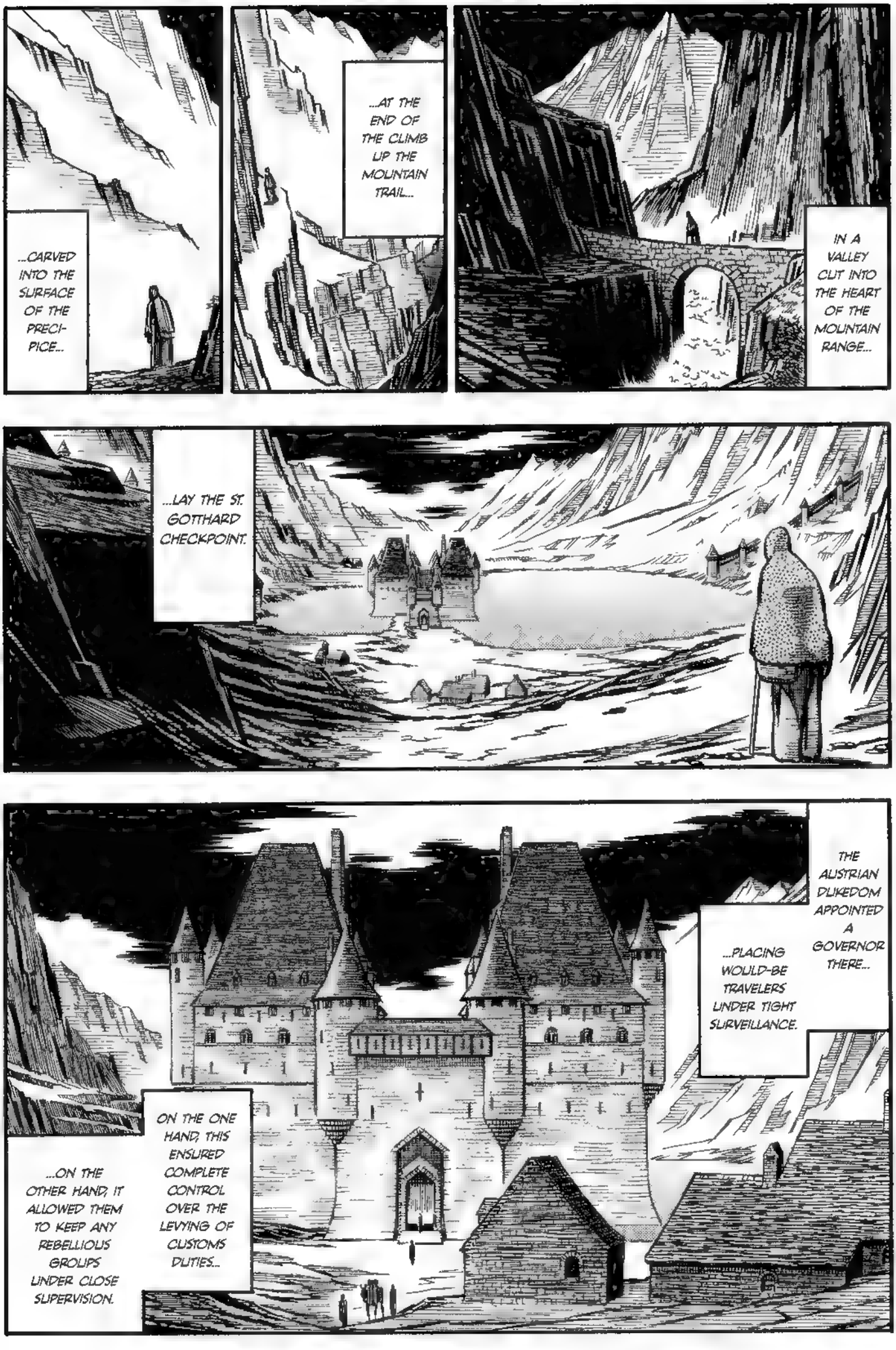
IF THIS TURNED OUT...
...TO BE THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW YOU...
...I WOULD --
JO-HANNA!

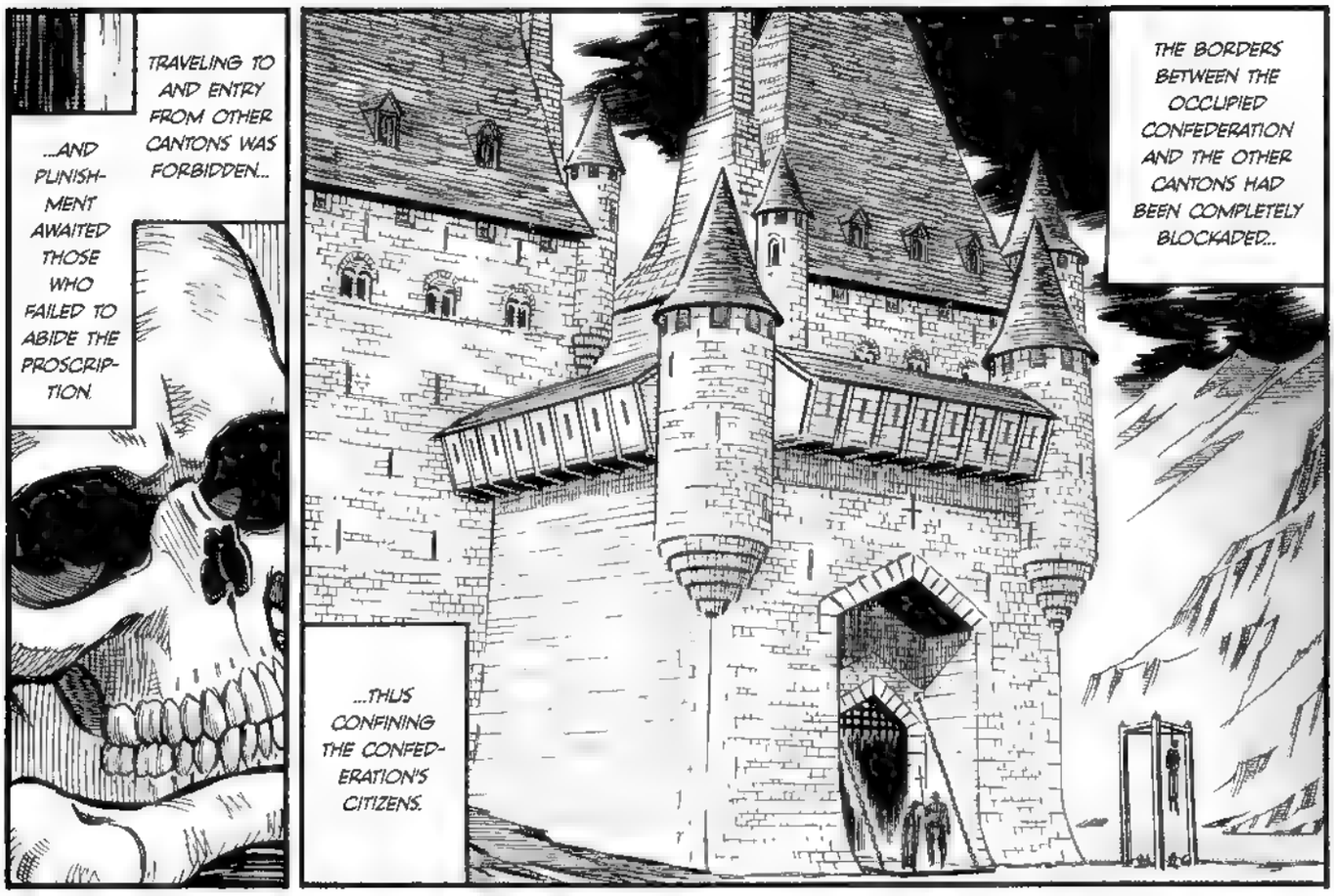
PLEASE SEND SOMEONE ELSE.

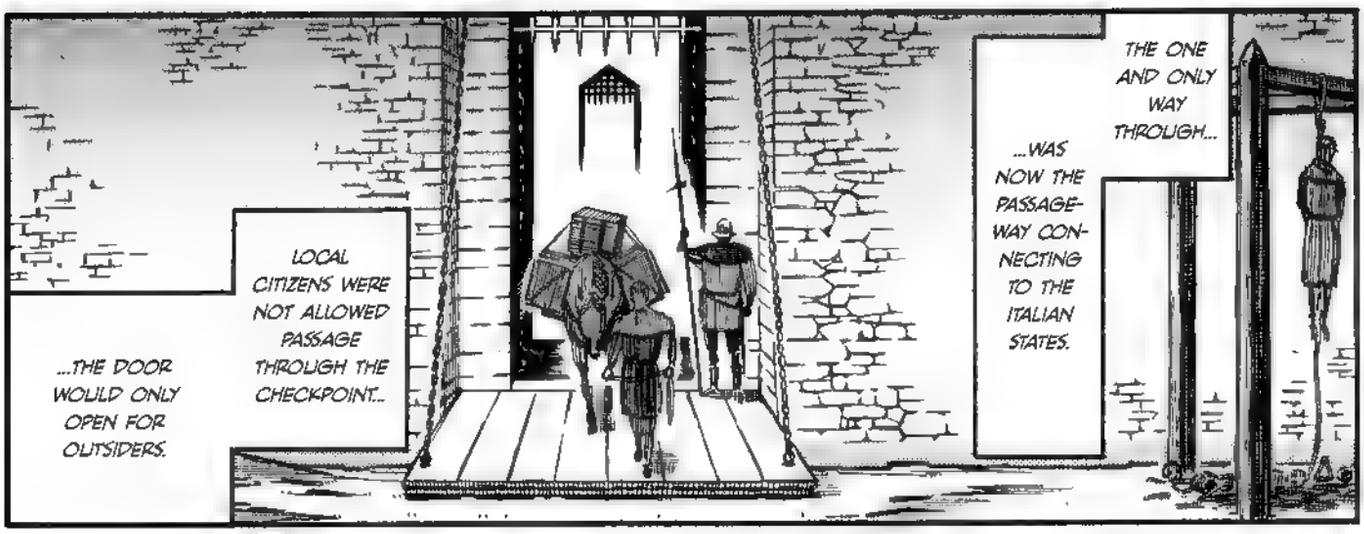
I'M SPEAKING OF WOLFSMUND.
THE WOLF'S MAW. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
TO GET TO LUGANO ...
...YOU'LL NEED TO TRAVEL BEYOND ST. GOTTHARD PASS.
YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON UPON WHOM WE CAN COUNT.
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE, AND SO DOES EVERYONE ELSE.
FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR HOMELAND.
IN ORDER TO RECLAIM OUR FREEDOM.
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN TURN TO.
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT PAST THAT PLACE, NO ONE ELSE CAN.
I BEG YOU, JOHANNA.
GO.

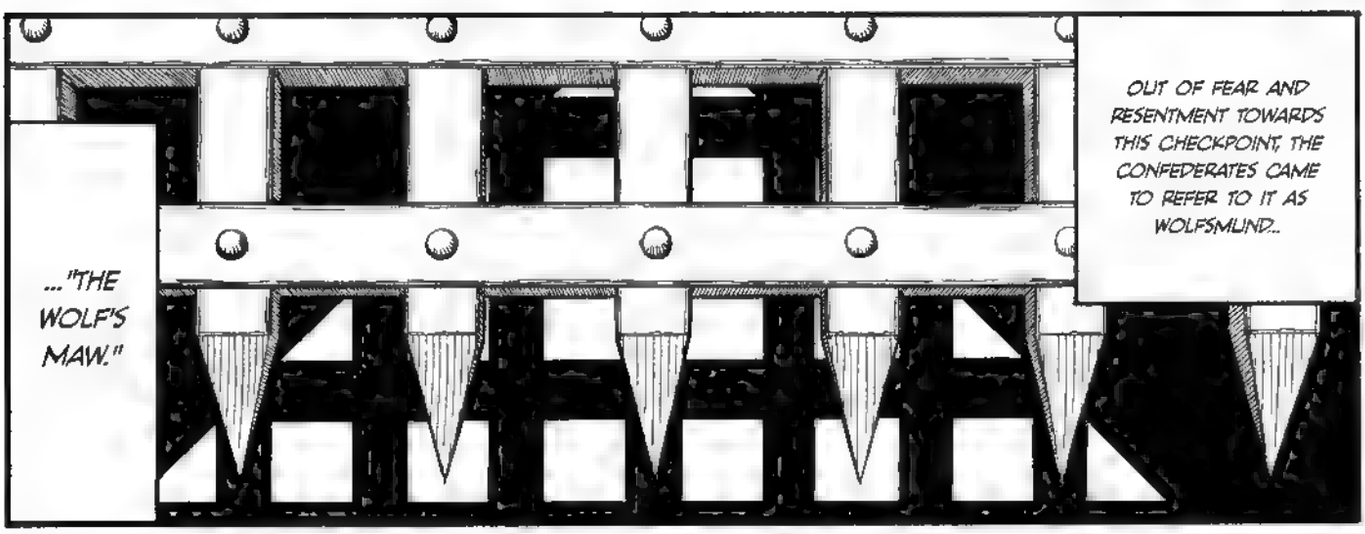
ARE YOU SURE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO CROSS THE CHECKPOINT THIS WAY?
THIS IS FORGERY, YES. OF THAT I AM AWARE.
BUT STILL, I'M CONFIDENT ENOUGH.
THIS FAKE LAISSEZ-PASSER LOOKS EVEN MORE GENUINE THAN A REAL ONE.
I KNOW JUST THE WAY.
PLEASE TRUST ME ON THIS.
LOOK AT THIS.
WAIT!
THE DOCUMENT MENTIONS AN ELDERLY WOMAN. SOMEONE NEARING HER FIFTIES.
THIS IS THE BEST WE COULD MANAGE.
NEVERTHELESS, ITS OWNER DIED BEFORE SHE COULD MAKE USE OF IT, SO...
KURSCHER
000
JOHANNA.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

THIS IS WHERE WE SAY GOOD-BYE
YES IT IS.
YOU TOO, JO-HANNA.
YOU TOO
PLEASE BE SAFE.

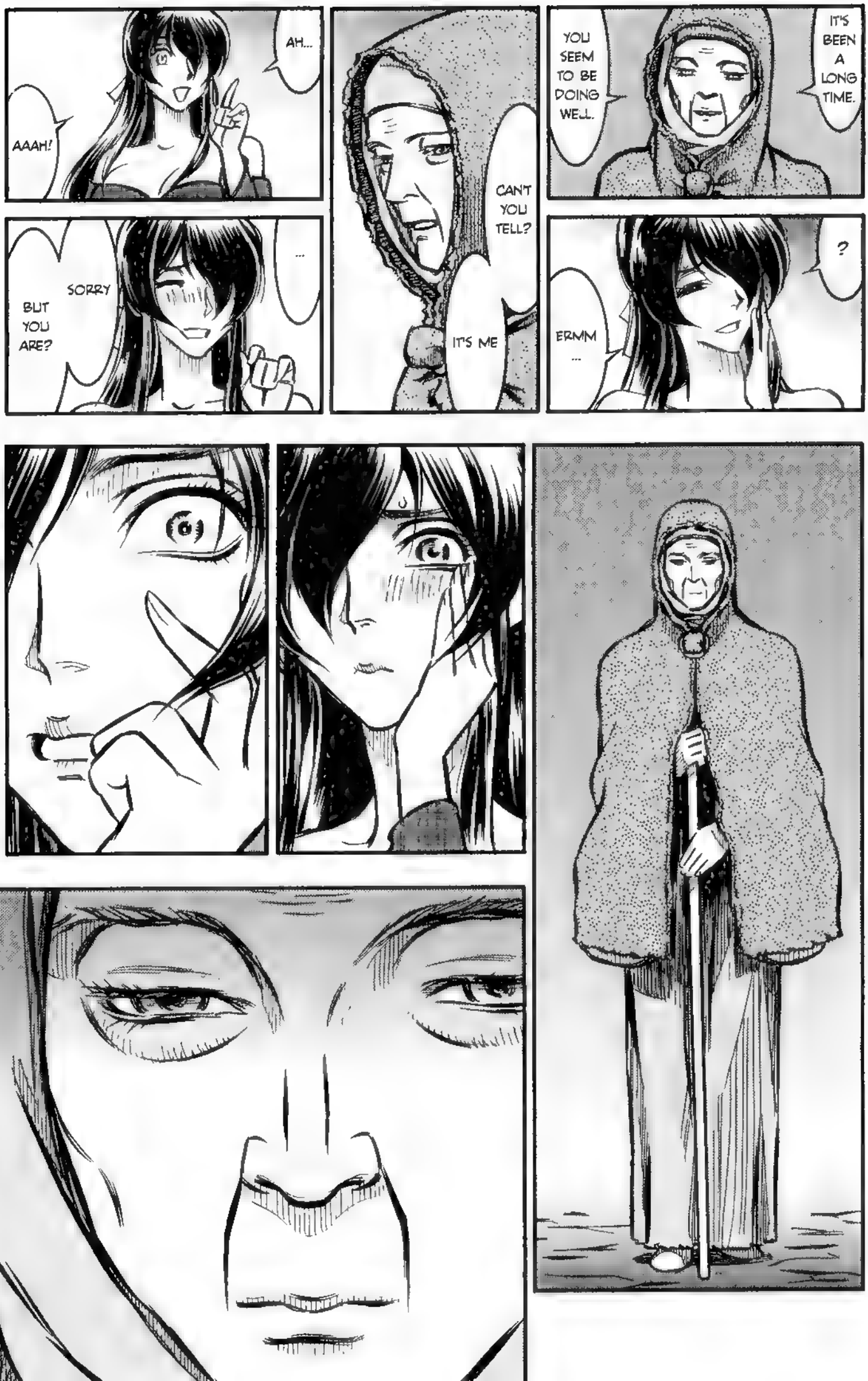

...CARVED INTO THE SURFACE OF THE PRECI-PICE...
...AT THE END OF THE CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL...
IN A VALLEY CUT INTO THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE...
...LAY THE ST. GOTTHARD CHECKPOINT.
THE AUSTRIAN DUKEDOM APPOINTED A GOVERNOR THERE...
...PLACING WOULD-BE TRAVELERS UNDER TIGHT SURVEILLANCE.
ON THE ONE HAND, THIS ENSURED COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE LEVYING OF CUSTOMS DUTIES...
...ON THE OTHER HAND, IT ALLOWED THEM TO KEEP ANY REBELLIOUS GROUPS UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION.


TRAVELING TO AND ENTRY FROM OTHER CANTONS WAS FORBIDDEN...
...AND PUNISHMENT AWAITED THOSE WHO FAILED TO ABIDE THE PROSCRIPTION.
THE BORDERS BETWEEN THE OCCUPIED CONFEDERATION AND THE OTHER CANTONS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY BLOCKADED..
...THUS CONFINING THE CONFEDERATION'S CITIZENS.


...THE DOOR WOULD ONLY OPEN FOR OUTSIDERS.
LOCAL CITIZENS WERE NOT ALLOWED PASSAGE THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT...
...WAS NOW THE PASSAGEWAY CONNECTING TO THE ITALIAN STATES.
THE ONE AND ONLY WAY THROUGH...


..."THE WOLF'S MAW."
OUT OF FEAR AND RESENTMENT TOWARDS THIS CHECKPOINT, THE CONFEDERATES CAME TO REFER TO IT AS WOLFSMUND..

PASS' INN.
Gasthaus
DELI-CIOUS! TODAY'S YET ANOTHER MEAL I CAN BE PROUD OF.
MMH.
I'VE JUST FINISHED PREPARING THE SOUP.
ASSUMING YOU INTEND TO STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT, BY ALL MEANS FEEL FREE TO ALSO HAVE DINNER.
I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU, MY APOLOGIES.
OH!
WELCOME. COME ON IN.


AH...
AAAH!
CAN'T YOU TELL?
IT'S ME
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.
...
SORRY BUT YOU ARE?
?
ERMM ...

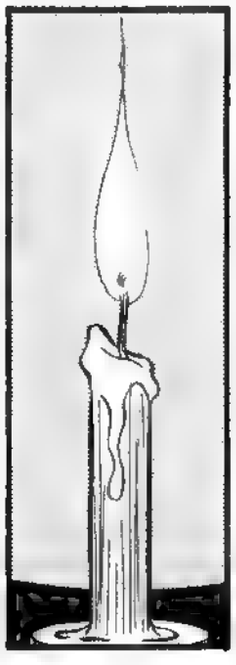
GOING THROUGH ?
PAST THE CHECK-POINT?
JOHANNA, YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED.
YOU CAN BE PROUD.
SO MANY OF OUR COMRADES...
...FOUND DEATH AT WOLFRAM'S HAND.
THIS IS *WOLFS-MUND* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU ARE TRULY ...
... COM-MITTED.
I'LL GO.
NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS THE PLACE...
...FOR MY MASTER WISHES IT SO.

YOU MIGHT BE THE FIRST.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE MIGHT *ACTUALLY* BE ABLE TO DO IT.

IF YOU PUT IT THIS WAY...
...I HAVE LITTLE ELSE TO ADD.

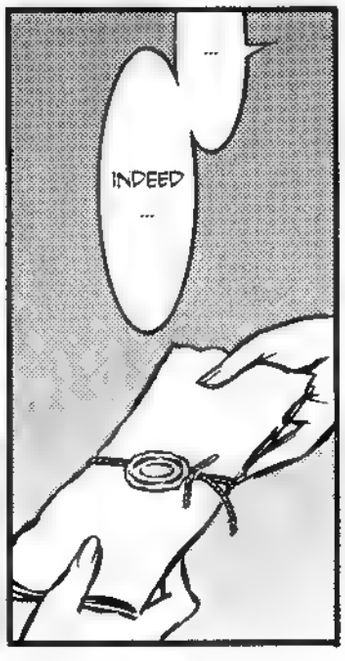
BUT...
...THIS IS WOLFRAM AFTER ALL.
HIS METHODS OF INVESTIGATION ARE UNKNOWABLE.

THE SEAL IS FAKE, TOO?
IMPRESSIVE.
IT'S INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE REAL THING.



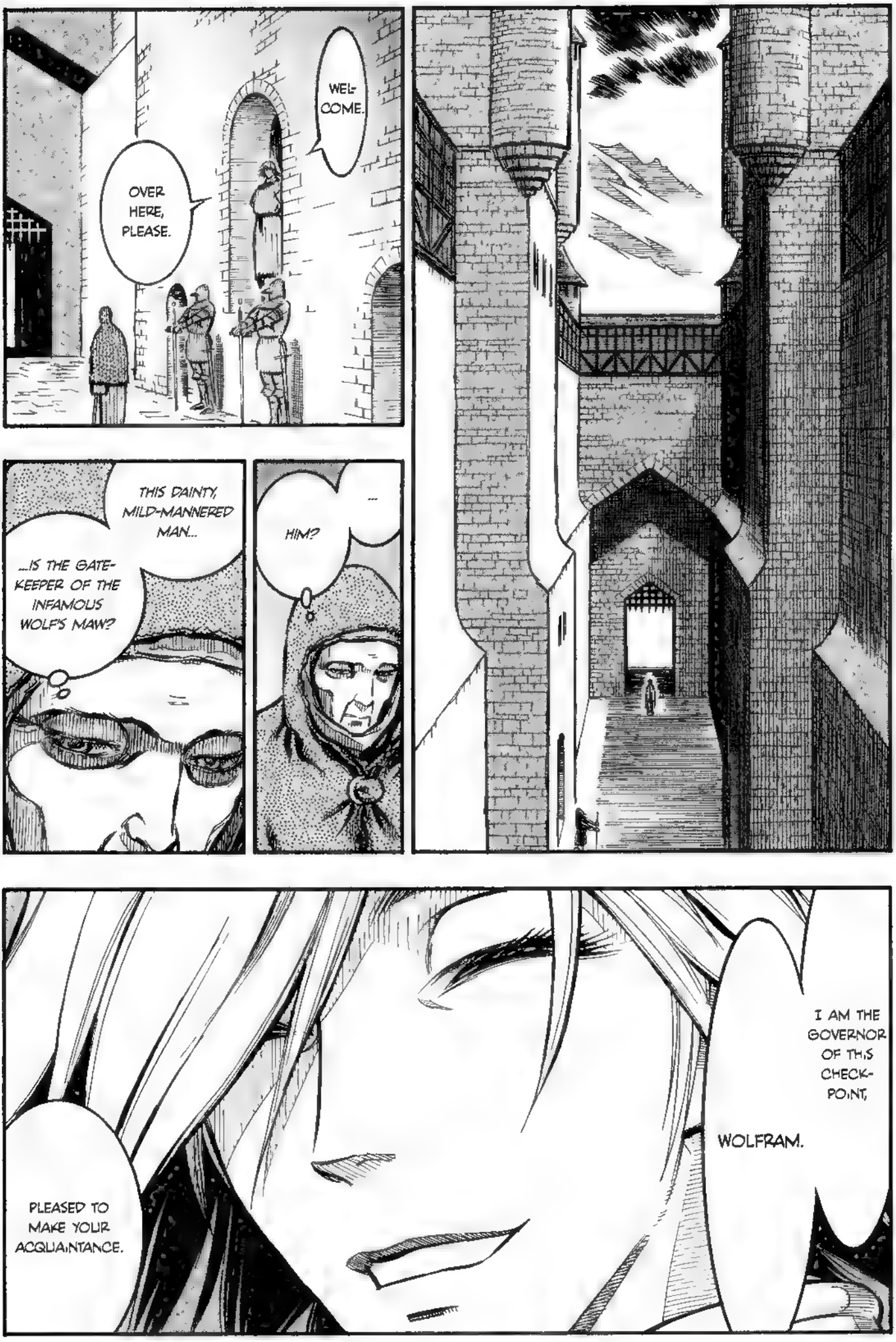
UMM..
HMM..

IF ONLY I HAD SOME ALTERNATIVE...
...IN ORDER TO AVOID THE WORST.


...
INDEED...

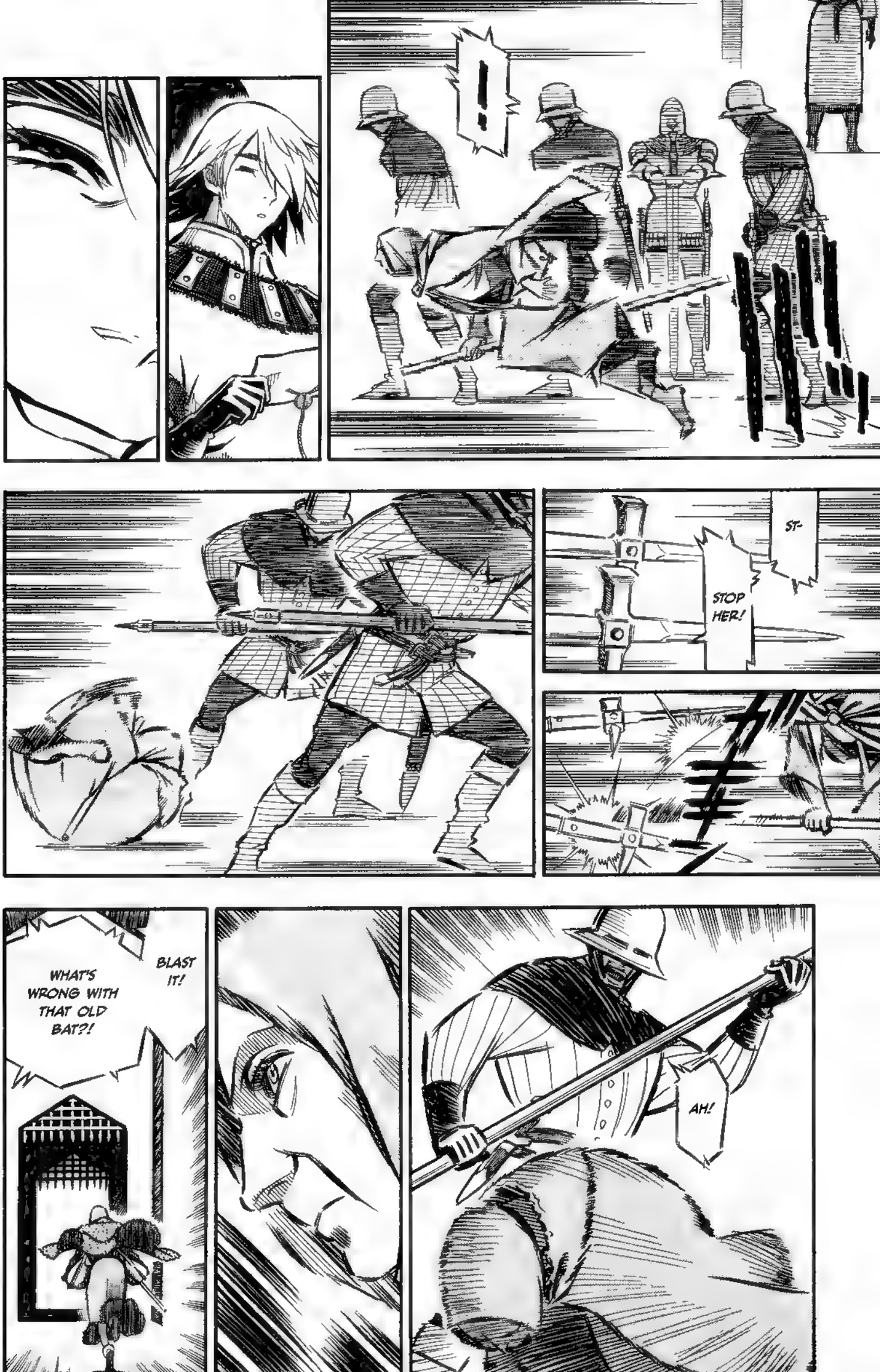
I'LL DROP BY AGAIN WHEN I'M ON MY WAY BACK TO GERMANY.
YOU PROMISE, YES?
I'LL BE WAITING, MY DEAR.
THAT WAS A WONDERFUL NIGHT.
I HAVEN'T HAD SUCH A GREAT TIME IN A WHILE.
YEAH... SAME HERE.

WALPURGA, PILGRIM FROM LUZERN!
COME IN!
BUT...
WHAT ABOUT THE GOVERNOR? RUMOR HAS IT HE WAS SIRED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MIGHT BE SCHEMING?
WHAT NOW, DARLING?
COME ON.
THIS IS IT. "WOLFSMUND"
WE'LL BE FINE.
WE'VE PAID THE CUSTOMS DUTIES...
...AND GOT OURSELVES A PASS.
ONLY THE LOCALS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM GOING THROUGH.


WEL-
COME.
OVER
HERE,
PLEASE.
THIS DAINTY, MILD-MANNERED MAN...
...IS THE GATE-KEEPER OF THE INFAMOUS WOLF'S MAW?
...
HIM?
I AM THE GOVERNOR OF THIS CHECK-POINT,
WOLFRAM.
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

A PASS ISSUED BY OUR LORD, THE DUKE OF AUSTRIA.
YES, YES, IT DOES LOOK THE PART.
THIS IS A FAKE DOCU-MENT,
ISN'T IT?

ANY REAL PASS ...
...WILL HAVE A NEEDLE HOLE PUNCTURED INTO IT, AT A SPECIFIC SPOT.
AN EXTREMELY TINY HOLE, YOU SEE.
A WELL-CRAFTED PIECE TO BE SURE,
BUT ...
...IT STILL LACKS ONE LITTLE DETAIL.
TOO BAD FOR YOU,
FRAU WALPURGA, PILGRIM FROM LUZERN.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST...
...UNDER CHARGE OF CLANDESTINE TRAVEL.


!
ST-
STOP HER!
BLAST IT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT OLD BAT?!
AH!

I WASN'T EXPECTING SUCH A YOUNG LADY.
WHAT A SUR-PRISE.
WHAT'S THIS? PIG SKIN...
...AND HAIR FROM A HORSE'S MANE, PERHAPS?
JUDGING FROM YOUR AGILITY...
...AND YOUR MASTERY OF DISGUISE...
...I DOUBT ANYBODY WOULD CONSIDER YOU AN UPSTANDING CITIZEN.
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU COME INTO POSSES-SION OF THAT COUNTERFEIT PASS?
YOU *WILL* ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, AND TRUST ME, I'M IN NO HURRY.

I CAN RECOGNIZE A CLANDESTINE TRAVELER...
...WHEN I SEE ONE.
FORGIVE ME.
THAT NEEDLE HOLE ON THE PASS WHICH I TALKED ABOUT.
WELL, THAT WAS A LIE.
OH, YES. I ALMOST FORGOT.
THERE IS SOMETHING I ALSO MUST CONFESS.
CALL IT SOME SORT OF... INTUITION, IF YOU WILL.
SO I *TRICKED* YOU INTO REVEALING THE TRUTH, AS IT WERE.
カコオオン
TOMORROW I MUST GO PAY MY RESPECTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE DUKE.
WE SHALL TALK MORE WHEN I RETURN.

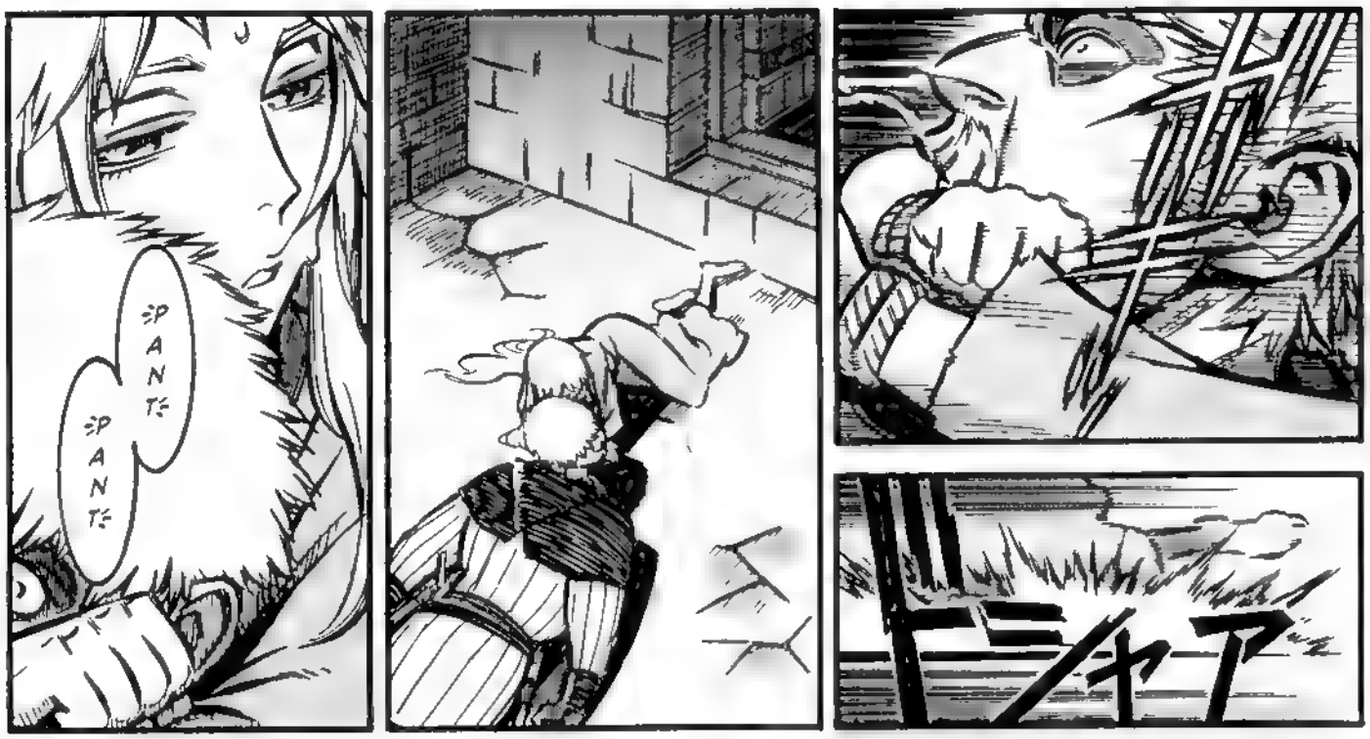
IT'S ME, WOLFRAM.
I HUMBLY ANSWER YOUR SUMMONS.
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY.
I DARE NOT EVEN THINK OF IT.
MY ONLY WISH IS TO SERVE.
YOU MAY HAVE MY BROTHER'S FAVOR...
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T ABUSE IT.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, WOLFRAM.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GREAT TIME...
...MAKING LIGHT OF MY EMISSARIES.
BE SURE TO DO AS YOU'RE TOLD IN THE FUTURE. SERVE ME FAITHFULLY,
IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T WARRANT UNDUE SUS-PICION.
YES, SIRE.
YOUR WISH IS MY COM-MAND.
HMPH
...AS A TESTAMENT TO MY LOYALTY TOWARDS YOU.
PLEASE REGARD MY METHODS...

WE'RE INTERROGATING HIM ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.
PANT PANT
BUT HE PERSISTS IN KEEPING SILENT.
THIS MAN MANAGES A HORSE RENTAL TRADE IN URI.
HE'S ALSO ONE OF THE CHIEFS OF THE REBELLION
I ARRESTED SOMEONE AT THE CHECKPOINT YESTERDAY.
AN UNCANNILY RESOURCE-FUL YOUNG LADY.
I GATHERED THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE SHE WOULD BE ONE OF THE CONSPIRATORS.
HE MAY HAVE DISPATCHED SOMEONE ELSE...
...ON A MISSION TO RELOCATE THE MONEY, I PRESUME.
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW SOMETHING?
...
WHAT WAS THAT?
INCORRI-GIBLE.
YOU WILL NEVER LEARN.
PROVIDED YOU LEAVE HER QUESTIONING TO ME.
WILL YOU ...
...DELIVER HER TO ME IF I GIVE THE ORDER?

HEY.
QUIT DOZING
WH-
WHAT IS IT?
THE PRISONER'S MOANING, OR SOMETHING
LET'S CHECK IT OUT
=PANT=
=PANT=
!

SCRATCH IT FOR ME...
PLEASE
MY BACK
IT'S ITCHING
-GULP-
GLICK
I CAN'T
..BEAR IT ANY LONGER.
DO-DO-DO-
DON'T BE SILLY
LIKE I COULD JUST DO THAT
COME ON.
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

WHO-
WHOA
...


PANT
PANT
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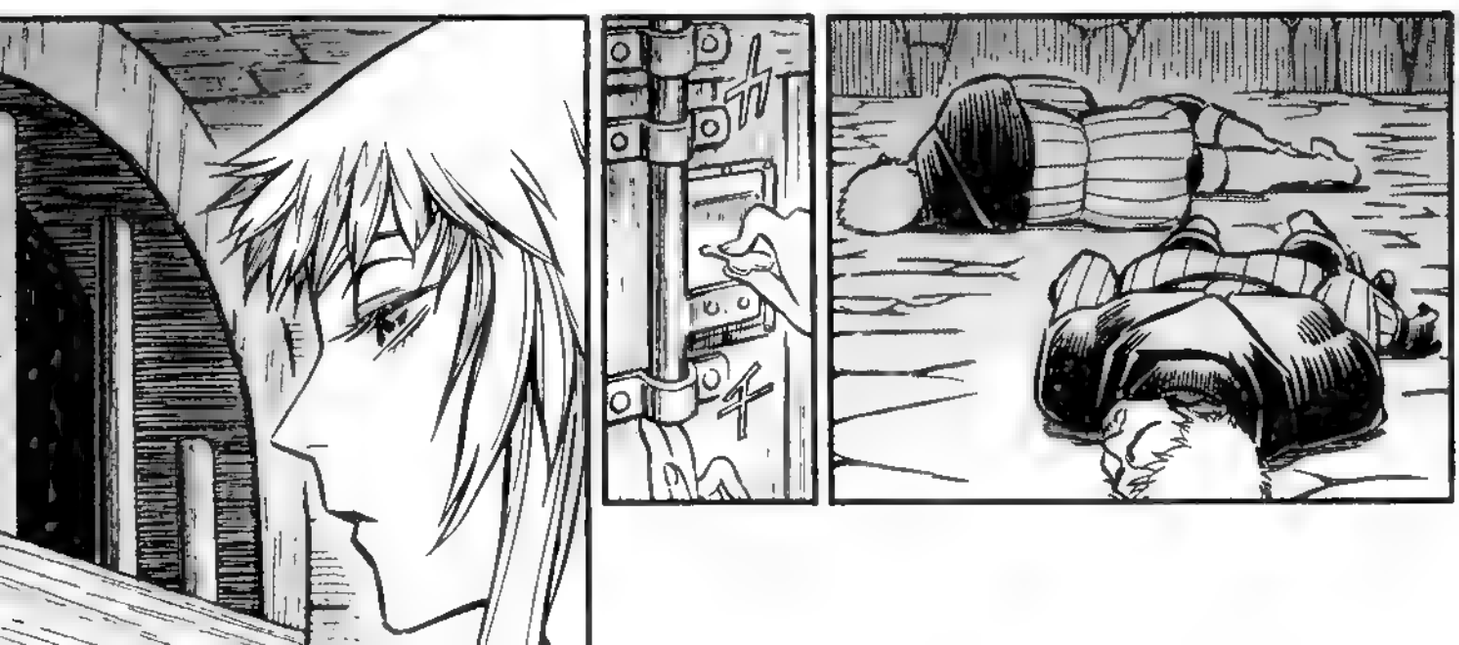
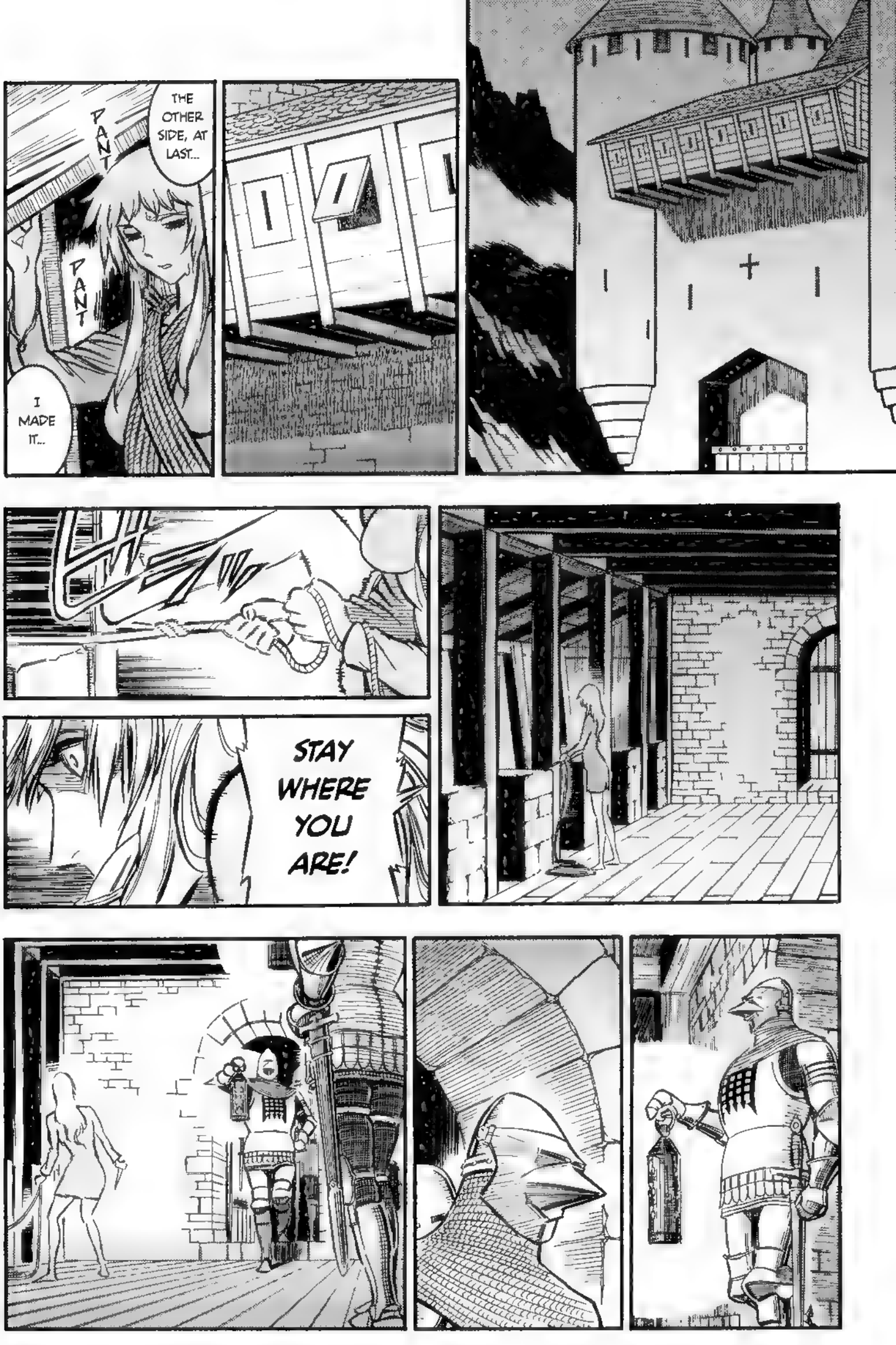
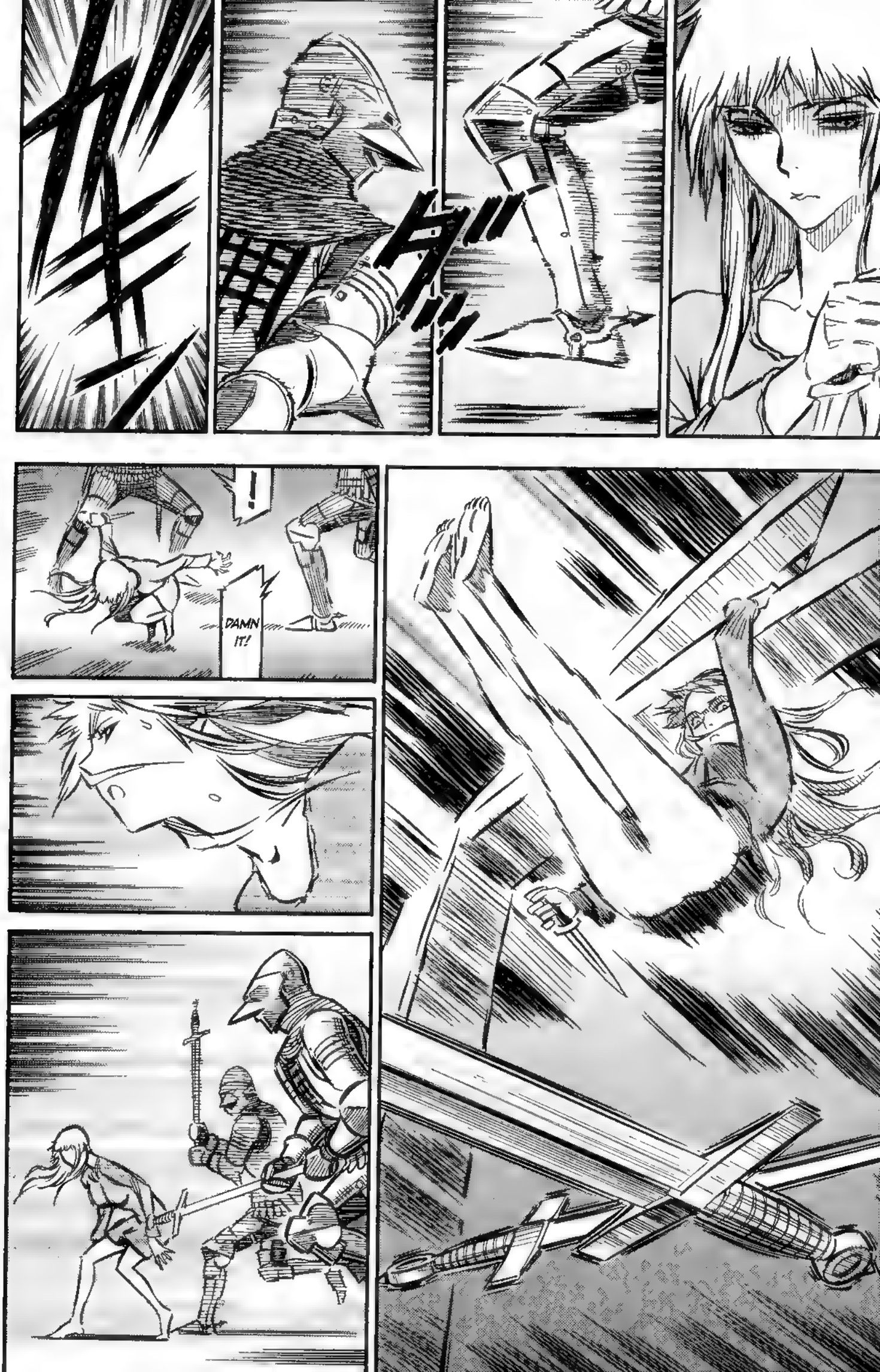
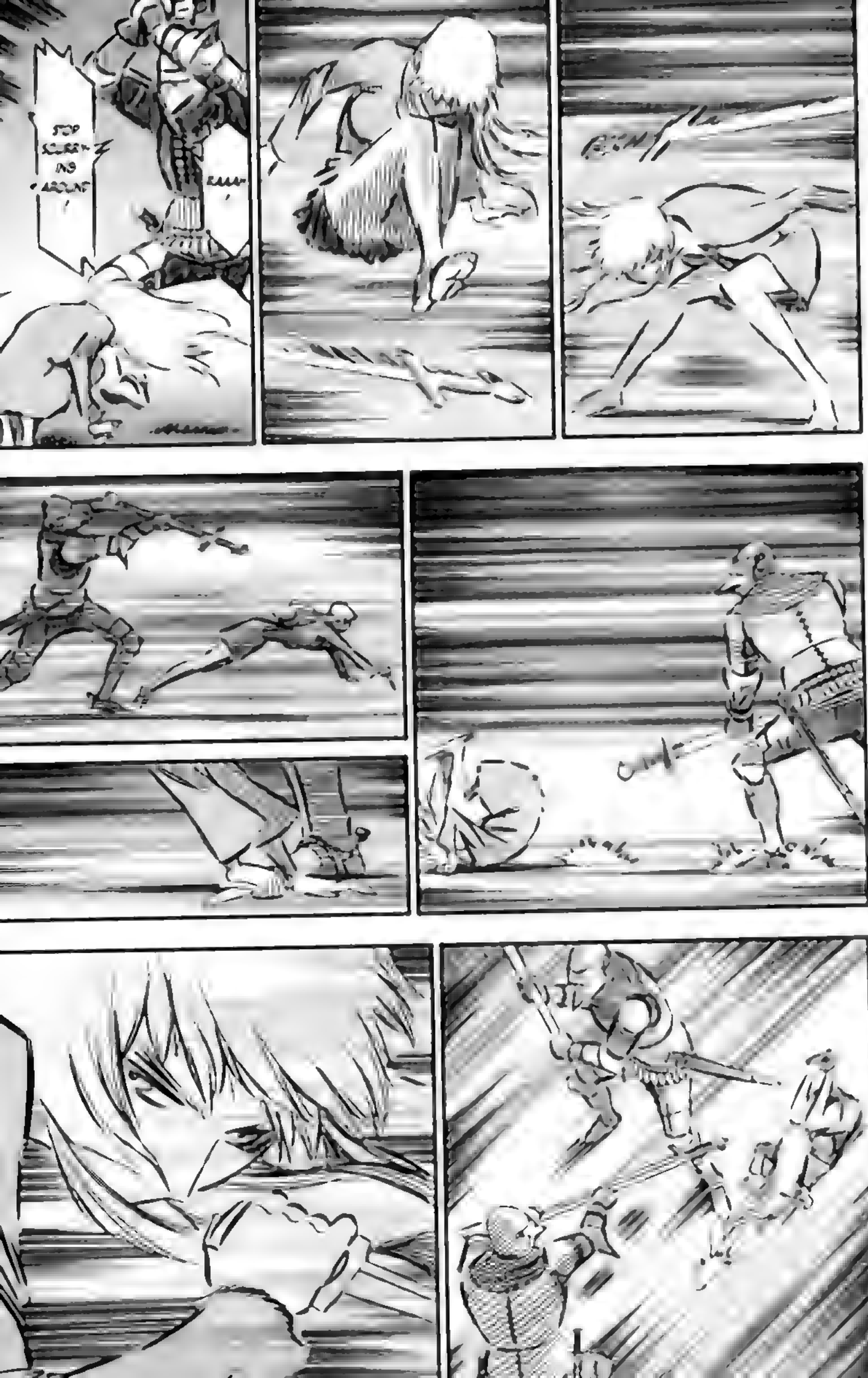


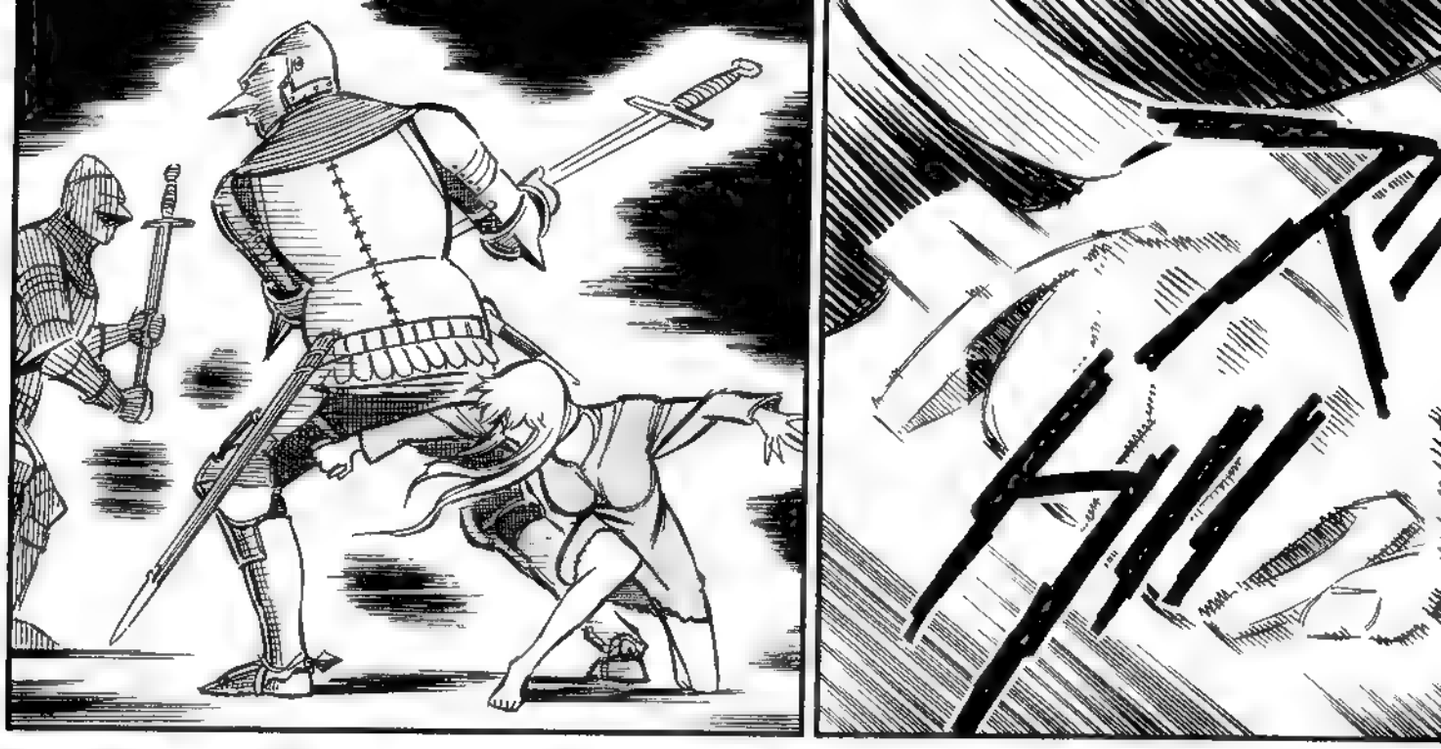
SO I TOLD HIM..
...YOU COULDN'T PLEASE A WOMAN IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
AND IF YOU DO. WELL, SHE'S A GOOD COME-DIAN.
OUCH.
THAT WAS MEAN.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

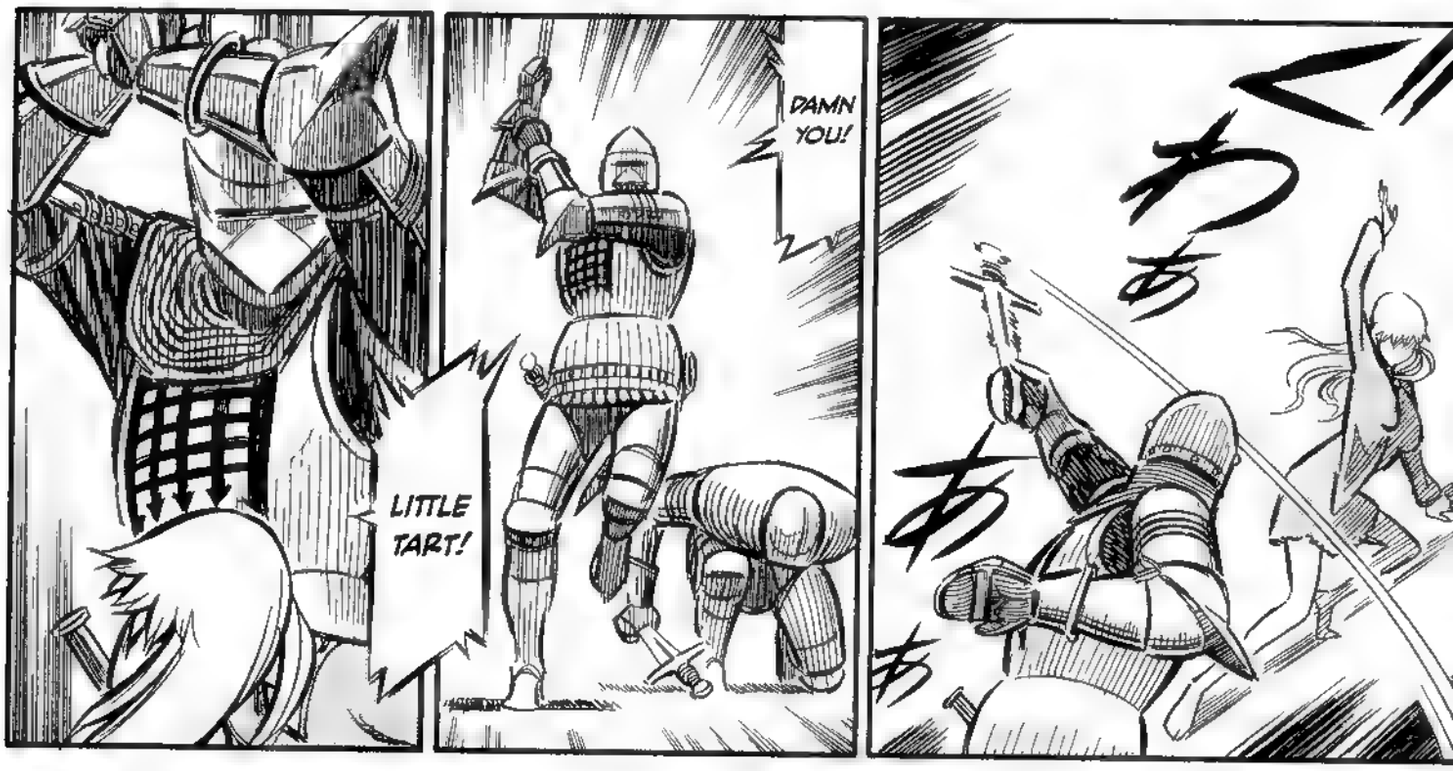

PANT
THE OTHER SIDE, AT LAST...
PANT
I MADE IT...
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

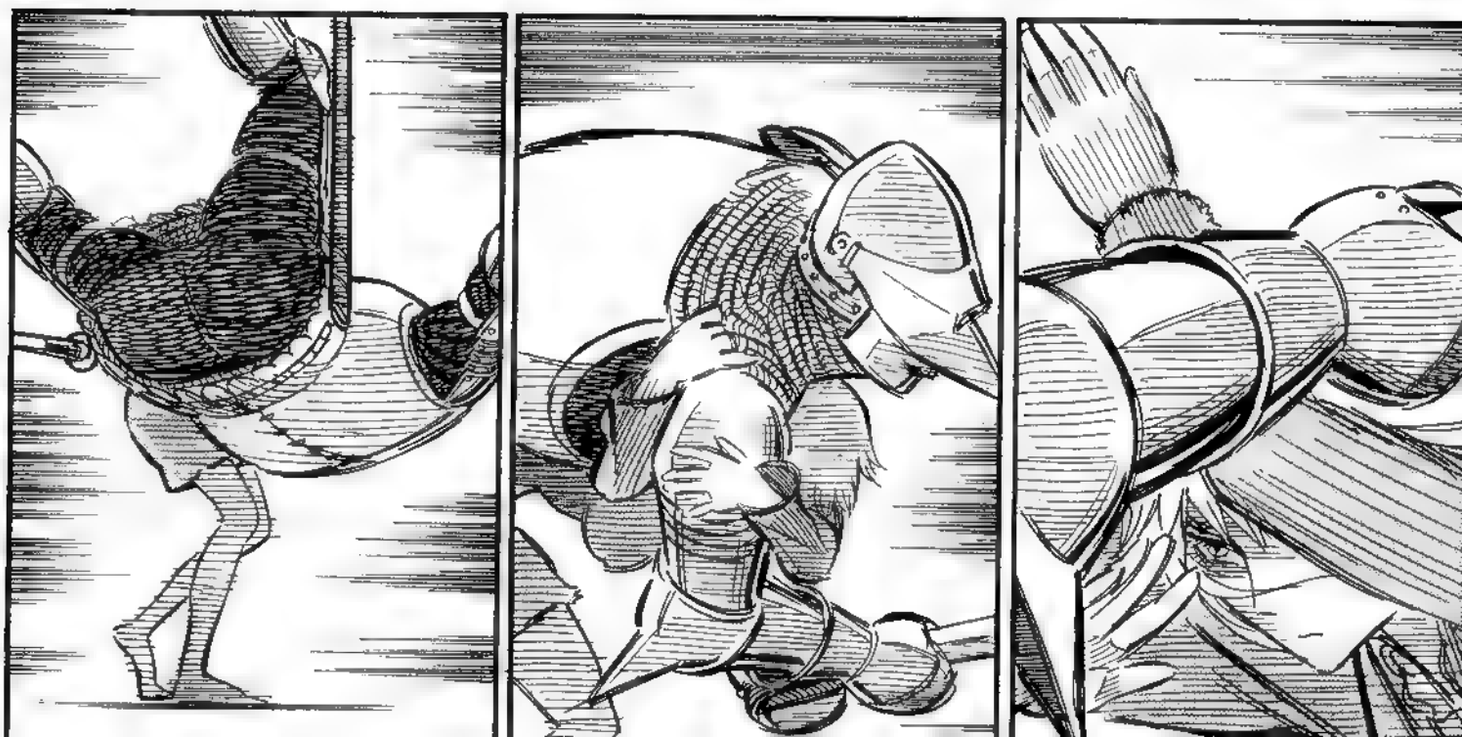
YOU MANAGED TO STRANGLE TWO OF OUR GUARDS
AND BREAK OUT OF YOUR CELL.
INDEED I SEE
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET OUR GUARD DOWN.
LEST WE FIND OURSELVES ON THE RECEIVING END OF HERR WOLFRAM'S DISPLEASURE
WE ARE TO CAPTURE YOU ALIVE
HOW-EVER
WE CAN'T GO SO FAR AS TO KILL YOU.
AYE.
DO NOT STRIKE TO KILL.
HIT HER WITH THE HILT OF YOUR SWORD
CLOSE THE DOOR.


!
DAMN IT!

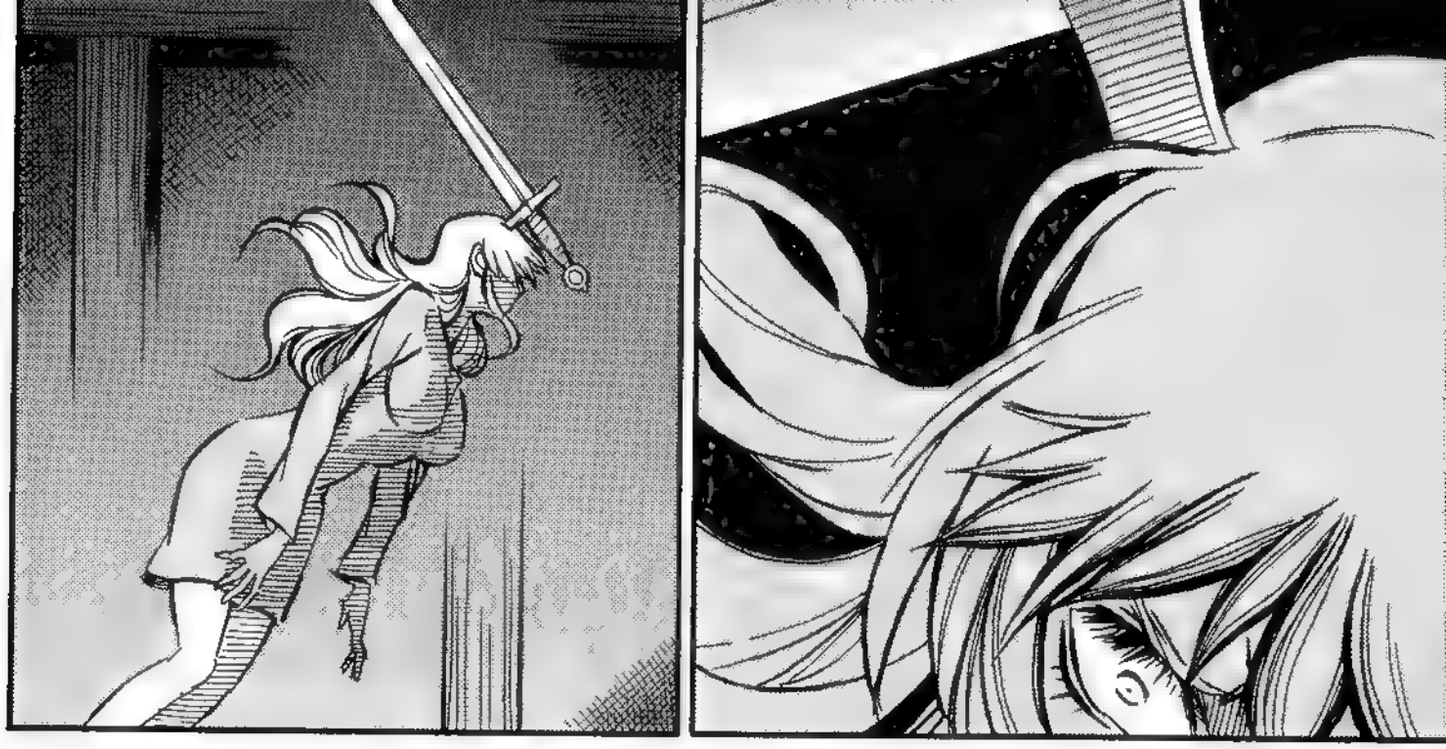

STOP SCREWING AROUND!
RAAH!

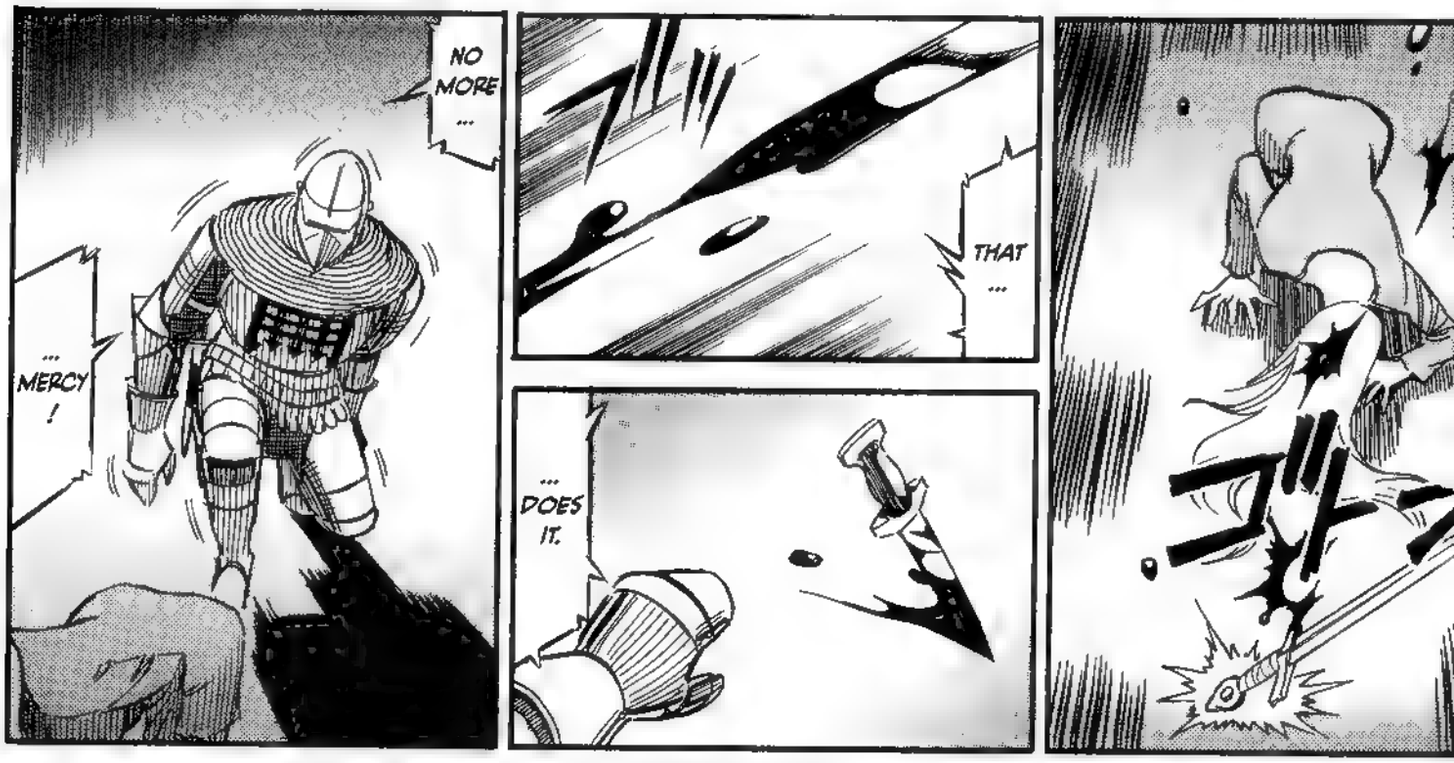


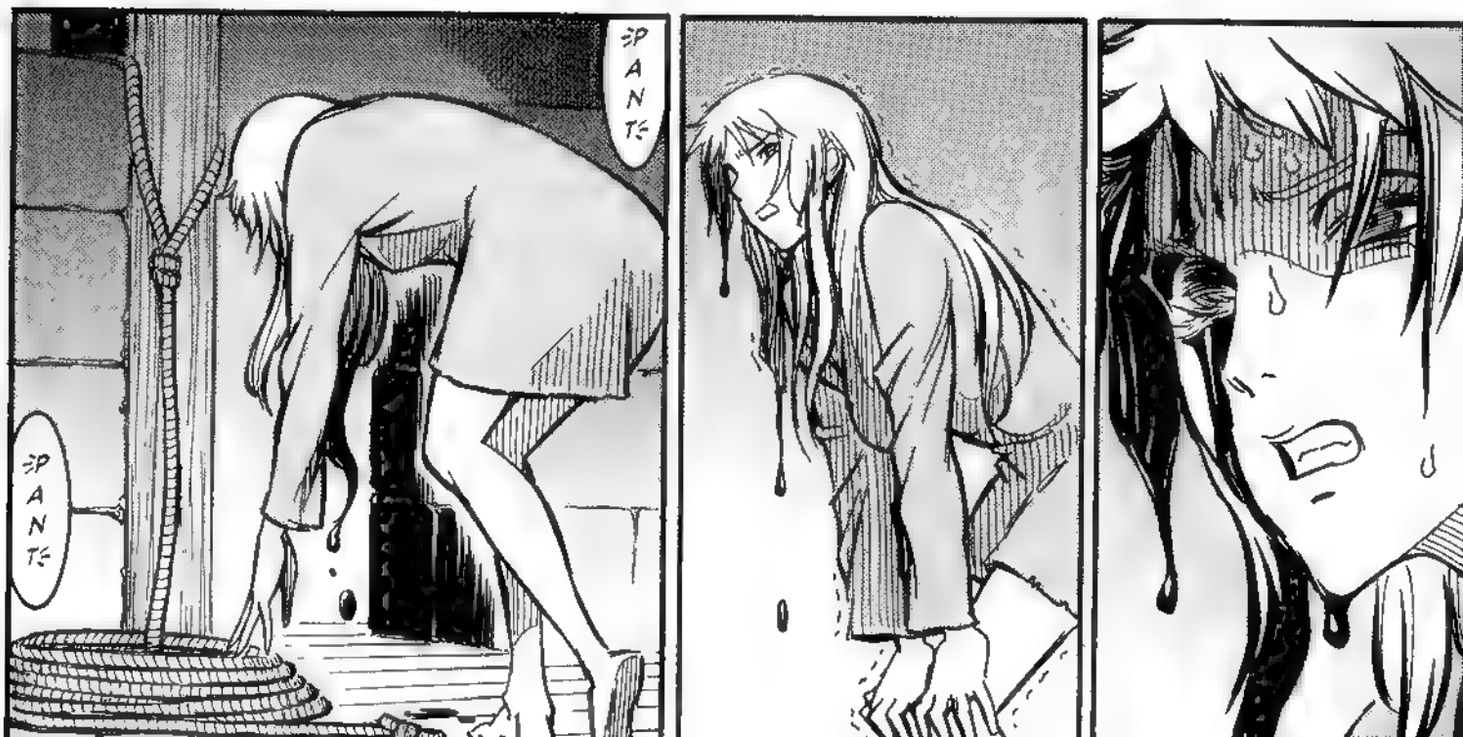

DAMN YOU!
LITTLE TART!



PANT
PANT
KRAAAAA




NO MORE ...
... MERCY !
THAT ...
... DOES IT.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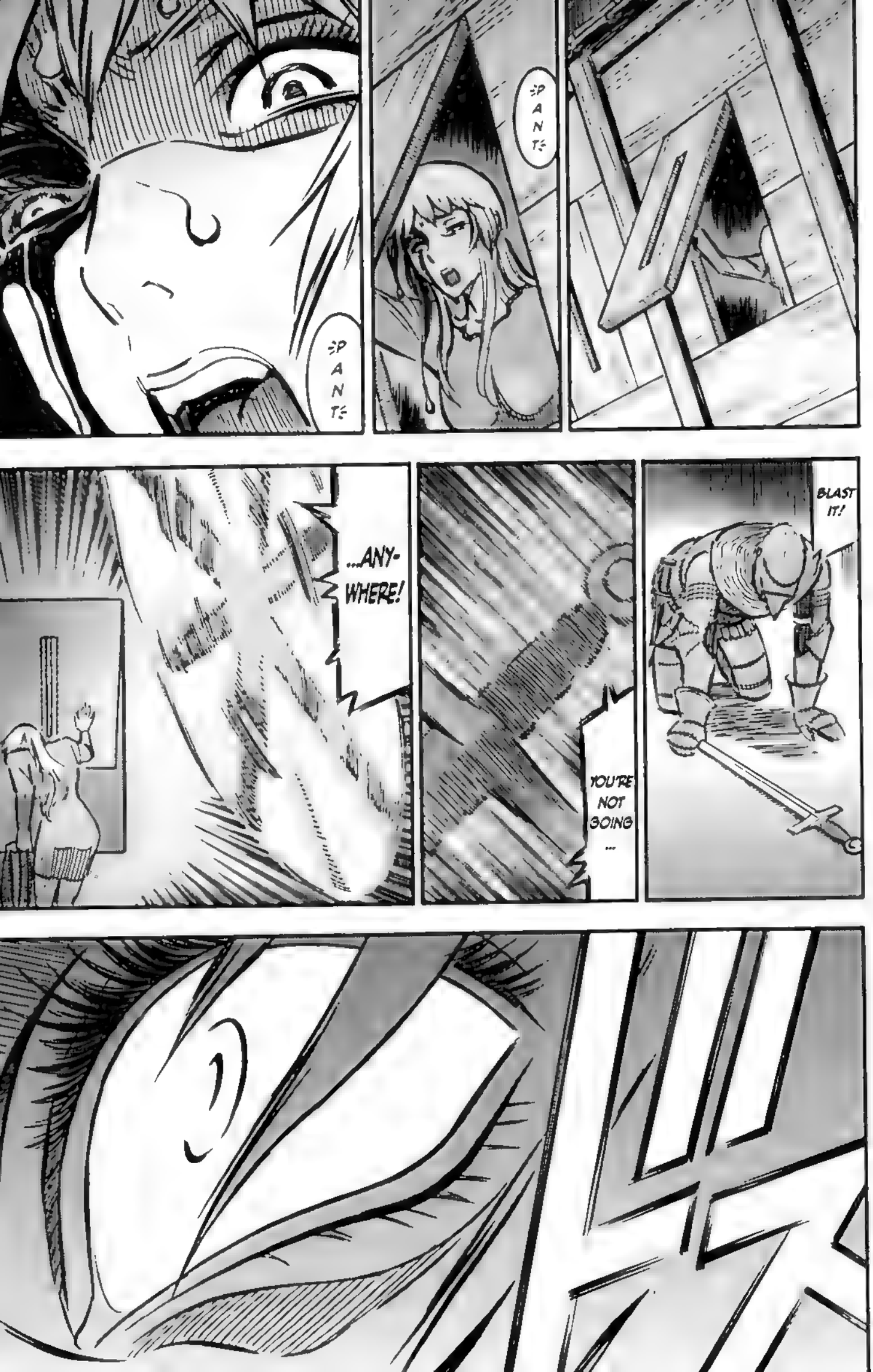
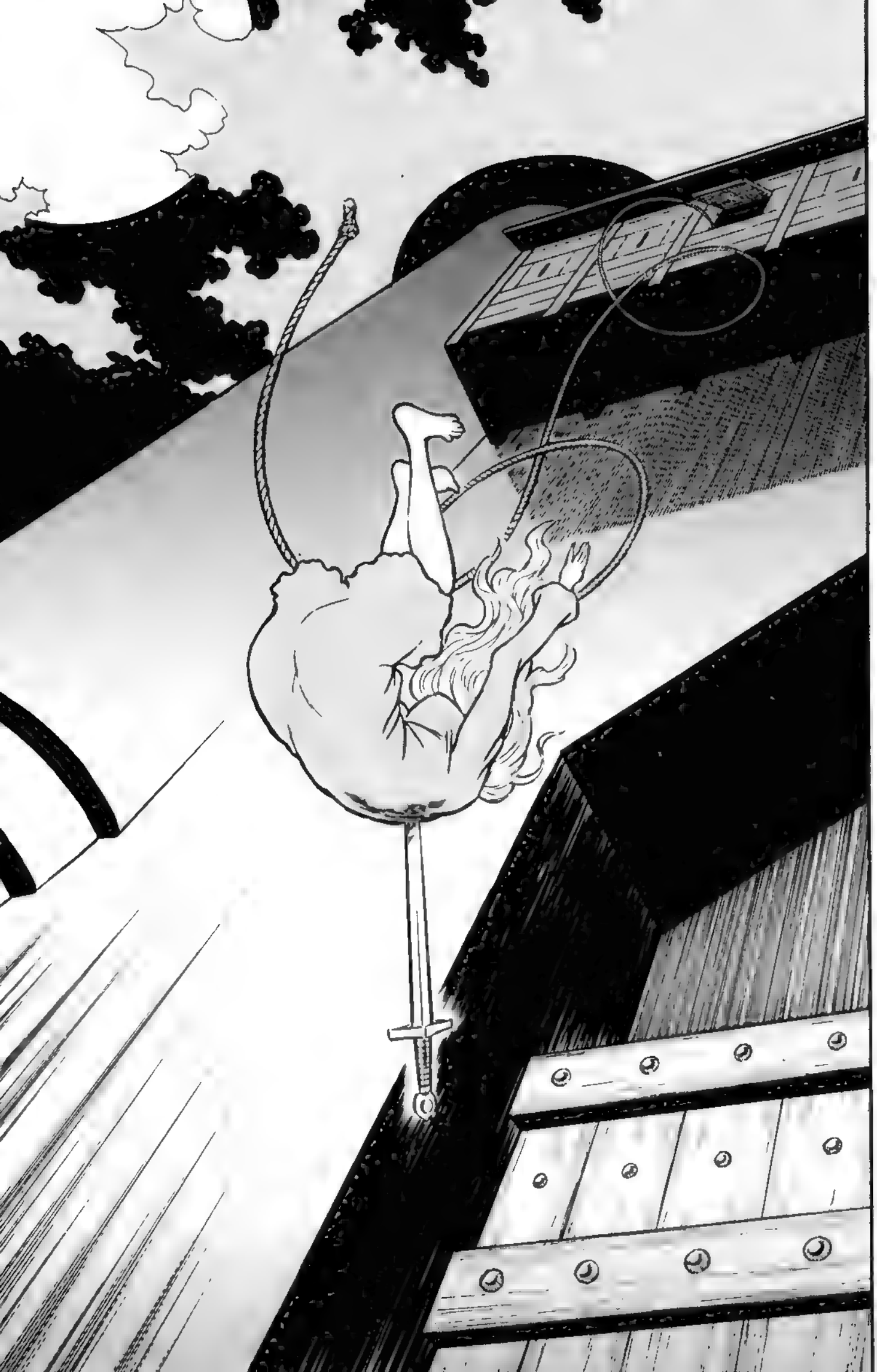
=P A N T=


=PANT=
=PANT=
...ANY-WHERE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ...
BLAST IT!

MASTER...
I SHALL ...
...DELIVER YOUR SEAL WITHOUT FAIL.
...PAST THE CHECK-POINT.
I'VE MADE IT...



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
HONEST-LY!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...
..NOW THAT MY TASK IS NO MORE?
NOW SHE'S DEAD.
SHE'S OF NO MORE USE TO US THIS WAY.
WE DID MANAGE TO GET OUR HANDS ON A CORPSE, AFTER ALL.
FOR NOW, SHE'LL ADORN THE FRONT OF THE GATE QUITE NICELY, I SUPPOSE.
I'LL LET YOU HANDLE IT.
HOW SHOULD WE DISPOSE OF HER?
SIR?
HMM ...

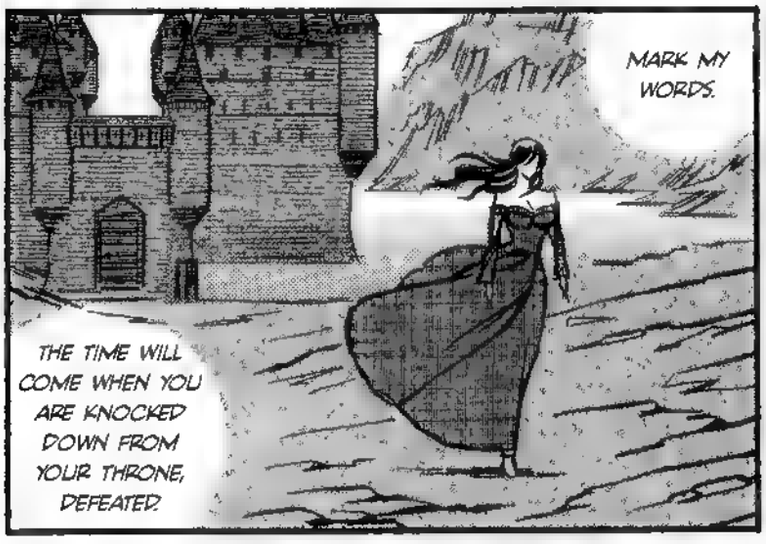
EXCUSE ME!
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH.

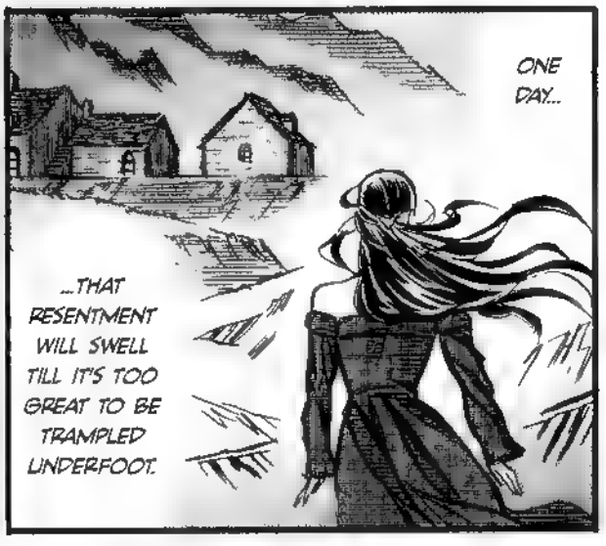
TELL ME, BOSS
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS OURS?
WHAT IS IT?
WELL ...
THE INN-KEEPER BACK AT THE PASS ASKED ME...
...TO DELIVER THIS FOR HER...
...TO A CERTAIN PLACE
WHERE ?
WHERE ARE WE HEADED ?
HM?
YEAH.

I WAS SO BUSY PARADING LIKE A FOOL, YOU SEE.
MADE THAT CRAZY PROMISE WITHOUT THINKING.
WHEN SUCH A GREAT LAY INSISTS ON SOMETHING...
...THERE'S NO MAN ON EARTH WHO COULD REFUSE HER...
LUGANO.
WHAT?
ALL THE WAY TO BELLINZONA?
WHY SHOULD WE?
YOU.
SAY A WORD AND YOU'RE DEAD.
IF YOUR WIFE FINDS OUT, THINGS WILL GET UGLY.
IN THE END, HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU GET TO DO THE DEED?
SO.
TELL ME...
HMM.
...
SIX.

WOLFSMUND...

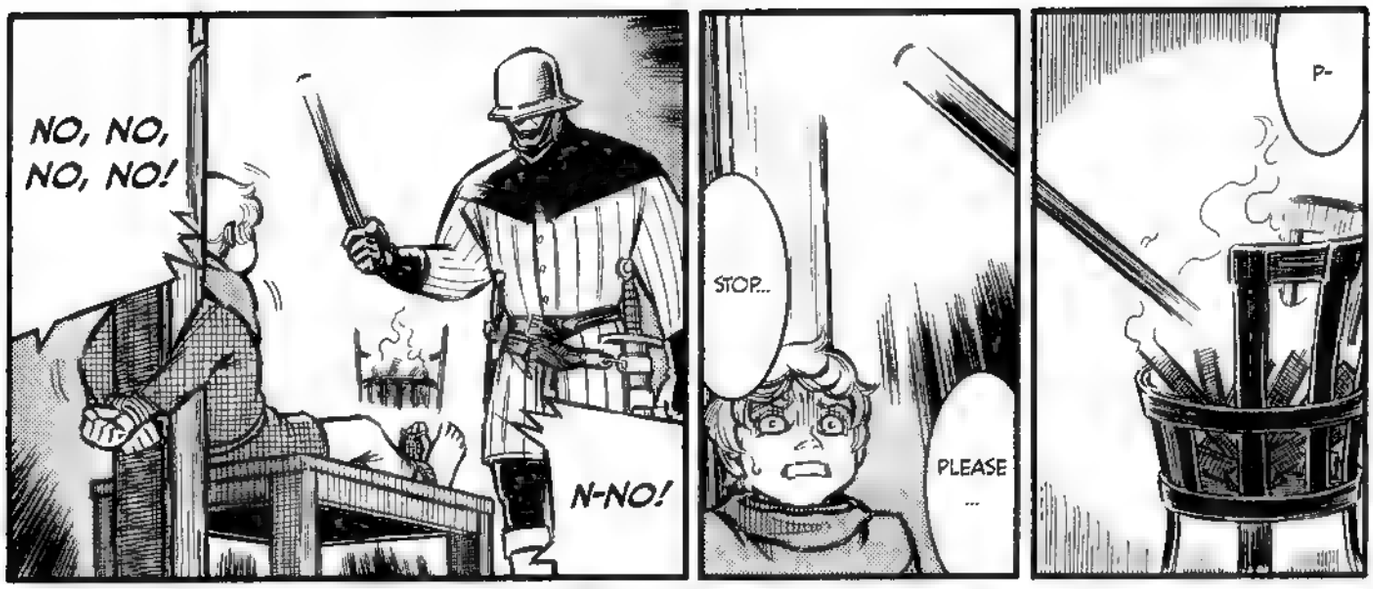
ARROGANT FORTRESS TREADING UPON THE PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT.


MARK MY WORDS.
THE TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU ARE KNOCKED DOWN FROM YOUR THRONE, DEFEATED.


ONE DAY...
...THAT RESENTMENT WILL SWELL TILL IT'S TOO GREAT TO BE TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT.

AND THAT DAY...
THAT DAY WILL COME SOON.

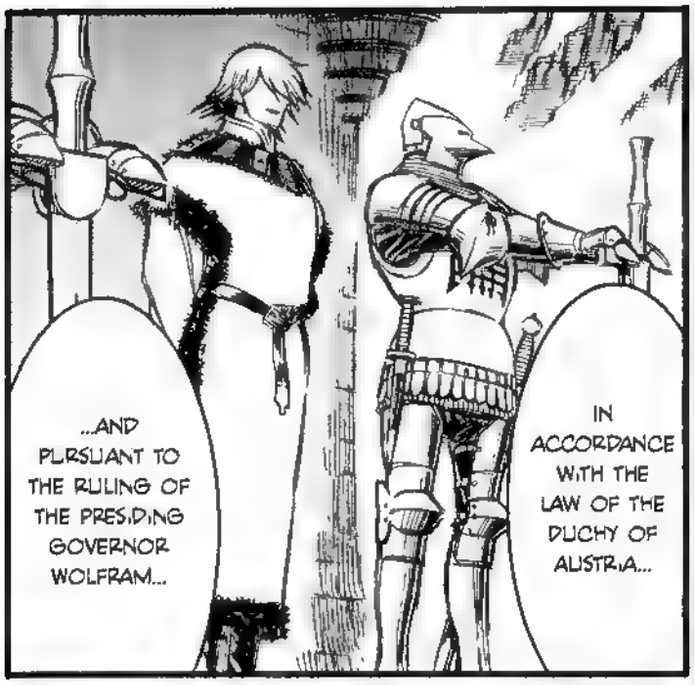
TODAY AT WOLFS-MUND...
...ONE PERSON WAS EXE-CUTED ...
...AND EXPOSED OUTSIDE THE GATE.

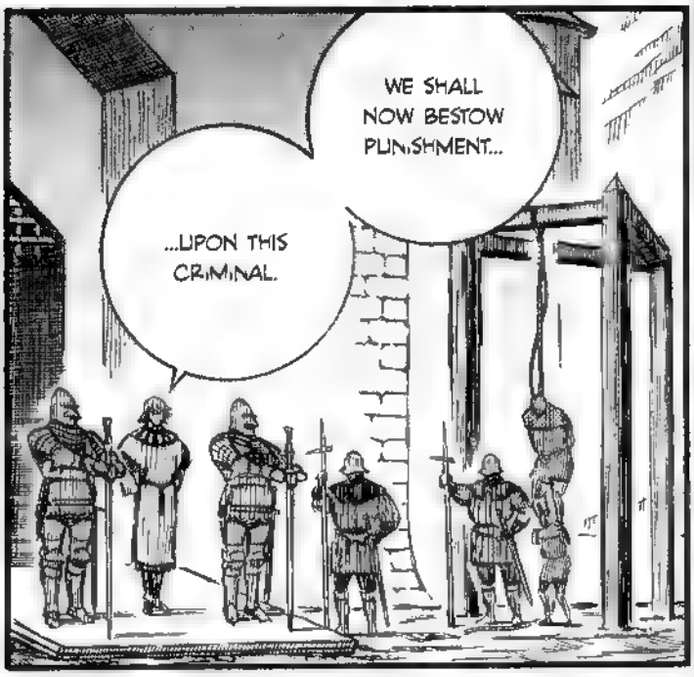

NO, NO, NO, NO!
N-NO!
STOP...
PLEASE ...
P-

Chapter 3
Wilhelm and Walter
AUGHHHH!

おおおおおおおお
MOST EXCELLENT!
GOOD-NESS!
THAT'S QUITE AN *EXQUISITE* VOICE.
MY SON ONLY CAME ALONG BECAUSE I TOLD HIM TO.
I'M THE ONE YOU SHOULD INTERROGATE!
IT'S TRUE,
MY SON AND I DID TRY TO BYPASS THE CHECKPOINT BY CROSSING THE FROZEN LAKE.
BUT I SWEAR TO GOD ...
...WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING REBELS.

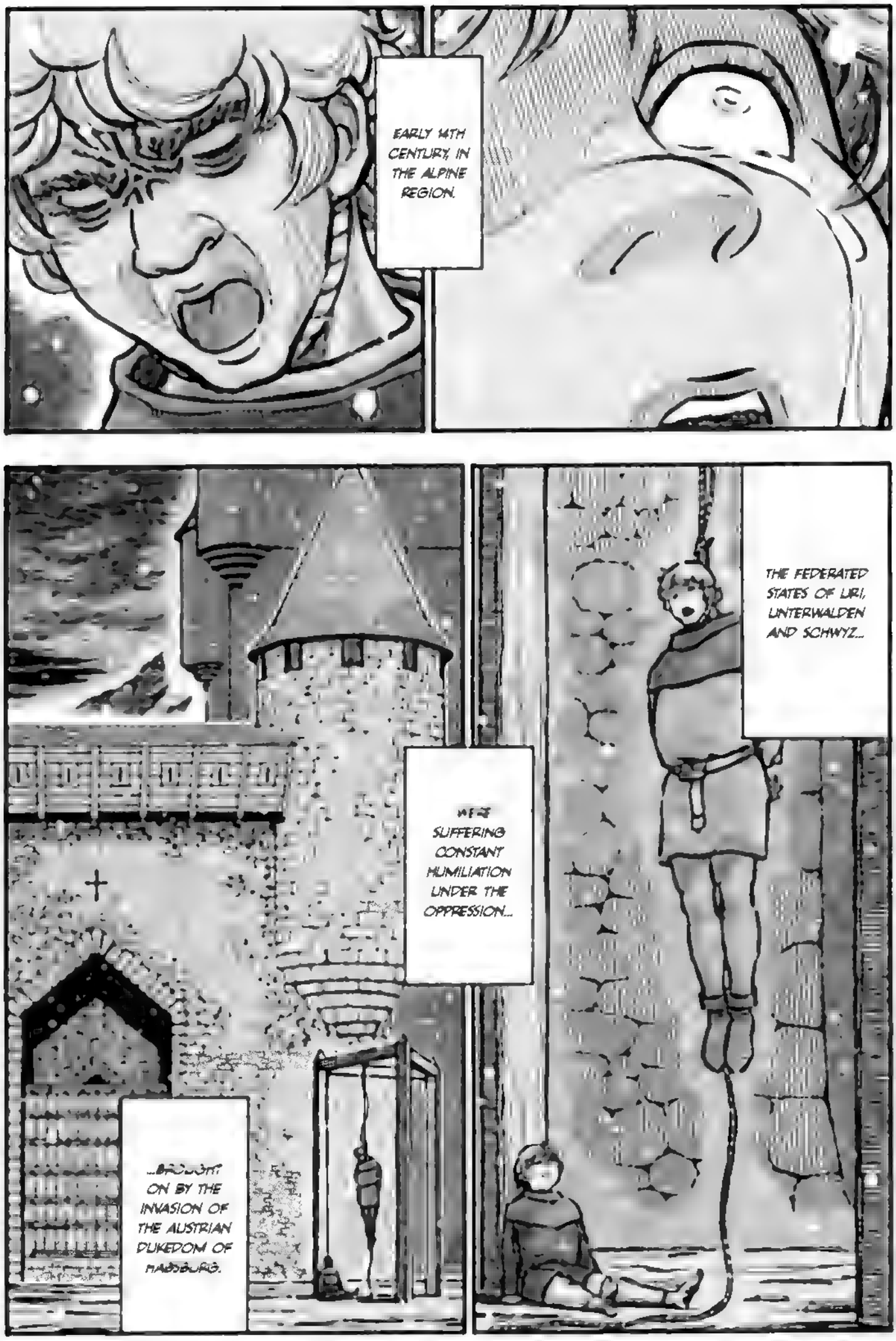
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
WE SHALL CONTINUE ...
...UNTIL YOU CONFESS YOUR TRUE GOAL.
IT'S THAT STUBBORN-NESS OF YOURS...
...THAT'S CAUSING YOUR SON TO SUFFER. DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT?
DEAR, DEAR!
IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL MISSING THE POINT...
FATHER !
FATHER !
PLEASE, SPARE ME!
NO, NO MORE!
PLEASE HAVE SOME MERCY!
HERR WOLFRAM!
I'LL SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE!
ANYTHING YOU COMMAND!
STOP, PLEASE !
STOP IT!


IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF THE DUCHY OF AUSTRIA...
...AND PURSUANT TO THE RULING OF THE PRESIDING GOVERNOR WOLFRAM...


WE SHALL NOW BESTOW PUNISHMENT...
...UPON THIS CRIMINAL.

...OR RATHER, IF GOD FINDS IT IN HIS MIGHTY WILL...
...I WILL CONSIDER POSTPONING YOUR FATHER'S EXECUTION.
STAND FIRM, YOUNG BOY.
IF YOU CAN LAST ONE NIGHT LIKE THAT...
FOR MY SAKE...
YOU HAVE TO LIVE ON.
NO!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
NOT WITH THOSE FEET.
JUST LET GO, SON.
NEVER!
NO!

SIGN: INN.
Gasthaus


EARLY 14TH CENTURY, IN THE ALPINE REGION.
THE FEDERATED STATES OF URI, UNTERWALDEN AND SCHWYZ...
WERE SUFFERING CONSTANT HUMILIATION UNDER THE OPPRESSION...
...BROUGHT ON BY THE INVASION OF THE AUSTRIAN DUKEDOM OF HABSBURG.

PLEASE, MY LORD!
URI. FIVE YEARS AGO.
HAVE SOME COMPASSION!
PLEASE SEND HIM HOME!
HE WAS TAKEN TO BUILD THE CASTLE AND HAS NOT YET RETURNED.
MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN GONE FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS.
YOU'RE A HINDRANCE. MOVE!
IMPUDENT PEASANTS!
HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT ME! DON'T YOU KNOW I'M GESSLER, THE GOVERNOR OF URI?!
WE ARE AWARE.
WE BEG OF YOU, YOUR GOVERNORSHIP.
IF YOU ARE A GOD-FEARING MAN...
...HAVE MERCY ON YOUR CITIZENS.
PLACE THE BOY IN FRONT OF MY HORSE!
I SHALL MAKE YOU REGRET TALKING OUT OF TURN BY CRUSHING HIM.
MOTHER!
STOOOP!

!
UNGH!
Roooo
ヒュ

MY LORD!
...JUST HAPPENED ?
WHAT ...
UM...
LOOK ...
LORD GESSLER ...
...

AN ARROW ?
SOMEONE SEVERED HIS HEAD WITH THIS?
GET DOWN!
HE'LL BE AFTER US NEXT!
CURSE IT!
WHERE'D IT COME FROM?
IT'S HIM.
IT HAS TO BE H M.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD PULL OFF SUCH A SHOT...

HOW TIME FLIES.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN FIVE YEARS...
...SINCE YOU SLEW GESSLER.
YOU REMINDED US THAT THE ENEMIES WERE MERE MORTALS, TOO.
IF WE FIGHT WITH GENUINE HATRED, WE CAN KILL THEM.
YOU ENLIVENED EVERYONE'S SPIRIT BACK THEN.

IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU
OUR HERO

WILHELM TELL.

ALL I DID WAS PAY HIM BACK...
...FOR THE UNJUSTNESS HE FORCED UPON ME.
THAT MAN MADE ME SHOOT AN APPLE OFF MY SON'S HEAD JUST TO TEST MY SKILL.
YOU ARE TOO KIND.
YOUR GODLIKE SHOT FROM 80 STEPS AWAY THAT HIT THE APPLE PERFECTLY...
IT HAS BECOME NOTHING SHORT OF A LEGEND.
EVERYONE IN THE ALPS KNOWS THE STORY.
...BUT SINCE I BECAME A WANTED MAN, I HAVE BEEN SAVED BY PLENTY OF PEOPLE.
EVENTUALLY, I REALIZED HOW POWERLESS I AM BY MYSELF.
I WAS ARROGANT AT THE TIME.
I USED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE SHAMEFUL BELIEF THAT THE STRONG IS STRONGEST WHEN HE STANDS ALONE...

THAT'S WHY I NOW FIGHT ALONGSIDE MY COMRADES.
AS A FELLOW WARRIOR OF THE CONFEDERACY.
AS A GROUP WE LACK PREPARATIONS...
...AS WELL AS WEAPONS AND SOLDIERS.
AT THIS RATE WE ARE DOOMED TO FAIL.
SO?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WE ARE GOING TO LUGANO.
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERACY ARE THERE.
I WILL RALLY OUR FRIENDS FROM THE OTHER TERRITORIES AND TRAIN NEW SOLDIERS.
WITH THEM UNDER MY COMMAND, I SHALL RETURN.
THAT IS MY ROLE THIS TIME.

GOVERNOR WOLFRAM...
...IS NOT ONE TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
A FRIEND OF MINE WAS KILLED ATTEMPTING THE SAME FEAT.
WE'LL CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS.
WE WON'T PASS THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT.
AND IN THIS SNOW...
YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE INSANE TO ATTEMPT IT.
THERE ARE NO PATHS YOU CAN WALK ON.
NO WAY.
THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

I'M THE BEST MOUNTAINEER IN THE ALPS.
ARE YOU NOT AWARE?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
..THAT ARROW YOU SHOT GUIDED US...
...LEADING US TO FIGHT TILL TODAY.
CLEARLY I LECTURED THE WRONG PERSON.
YES.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
I HAVE FAITH IN YOU
WILHELM TELL.

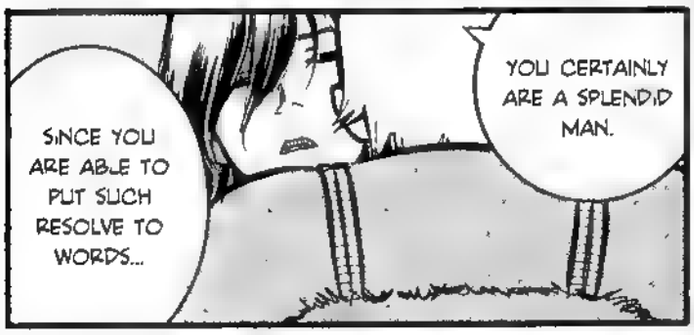
THE SNOW HAS HARDENED QUITE A BIT
WE WAITED A FULL DAY AFTER IT STOPPED FALLING.
IT SHOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO WALK ON NOW.
SO, THAT'S WOLFSMUND.
I SEE.
LOOKING HIGH AND MIGHTY, INDEED.
WE SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE THEY TAKE NOTICE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.
WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN WHEN WE RETURN.
WAIT.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO TAKE HIM WITH YOU?
HE'S STILL TOO YOUNG.
CAN'T YOU LET HIM STAY?
WALTER... RIGHT?
YOUR SON.
IF SOMETHING WERE TO OCCUR...
...I WOULD BE HELPLESS WITHOUT HIM.
I CANNOT CLIMB THESE MOUNTAINS ALONE.
I--
DON'T WORRY.
I SPENT FIVE YEARS TRAINING HIM.
NOW HE'S THE SECOND BEST MOUNTAINEER IN THE ALPS.

I'M DETERMINED TO BECOME A MAN...
...OF THE ALPS...
...JUST LIKE MY FATHER.

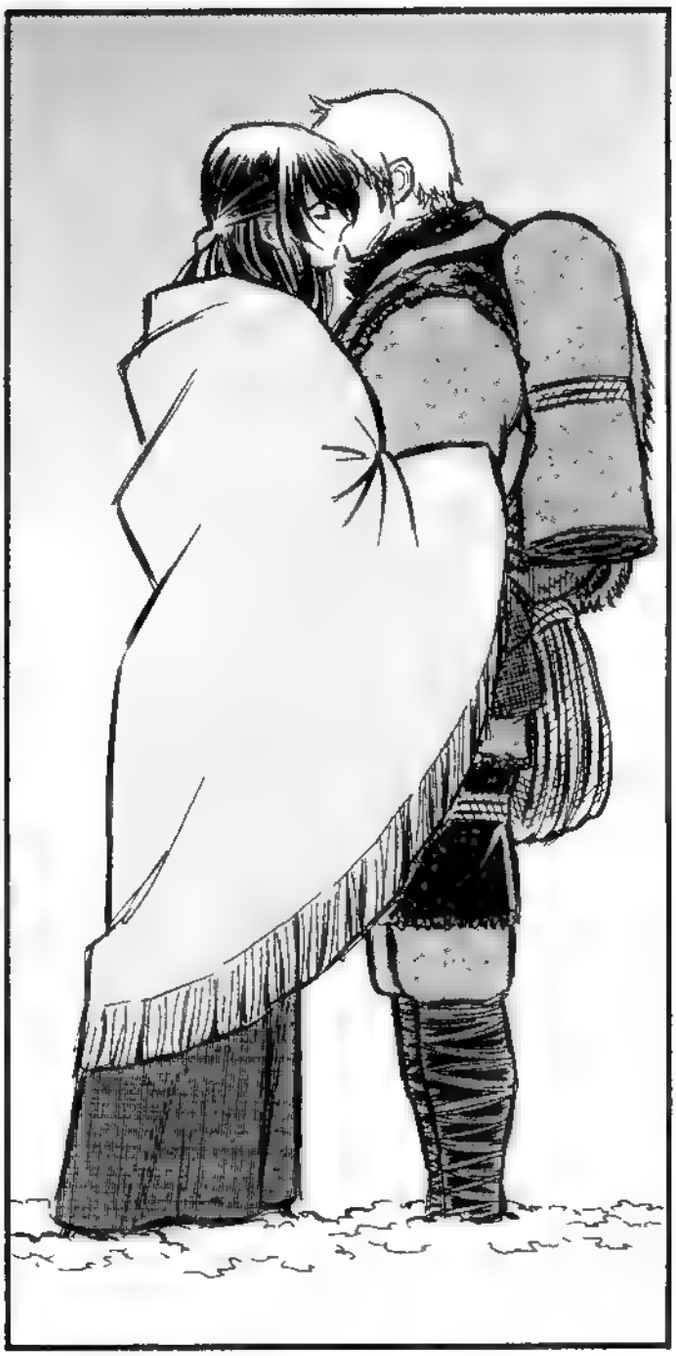
I'M A BIG BOY NOW.
I WANT TO JOIN THE FIGHT AND BE OF AID TO EVERYONE.
AS A MEMBER OF THE CONFED-ERACY.

FORGIVE ME
I WAS WRONG.


YOU CERTAINLY ARE A SPLENDID MAN.
SINCE YOU ARE ABLE TO PUT SUCH RESOLVE TO WORDS...

..LET'S MEET AGAIN.
TO MAKE UP FOR MY RUDENESS...

...I SHALL TEACH YOU...
...MANY WAYS OF BEING AN ADULT.

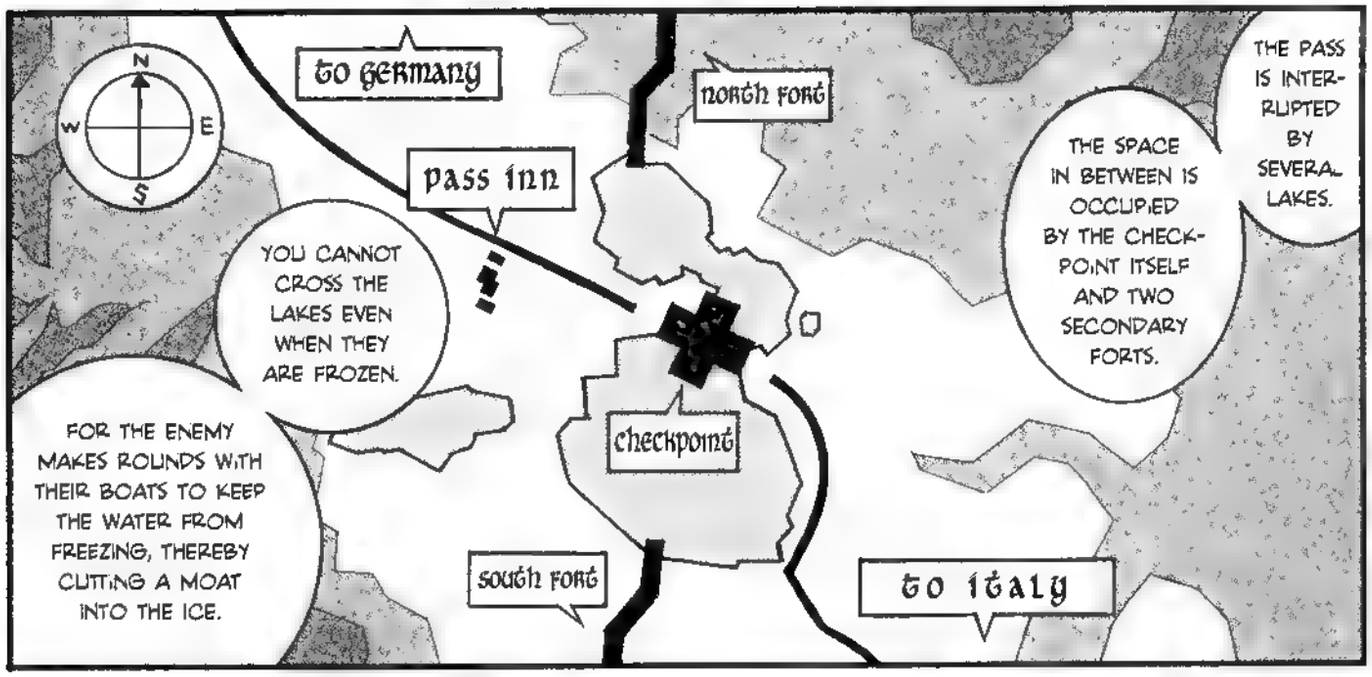


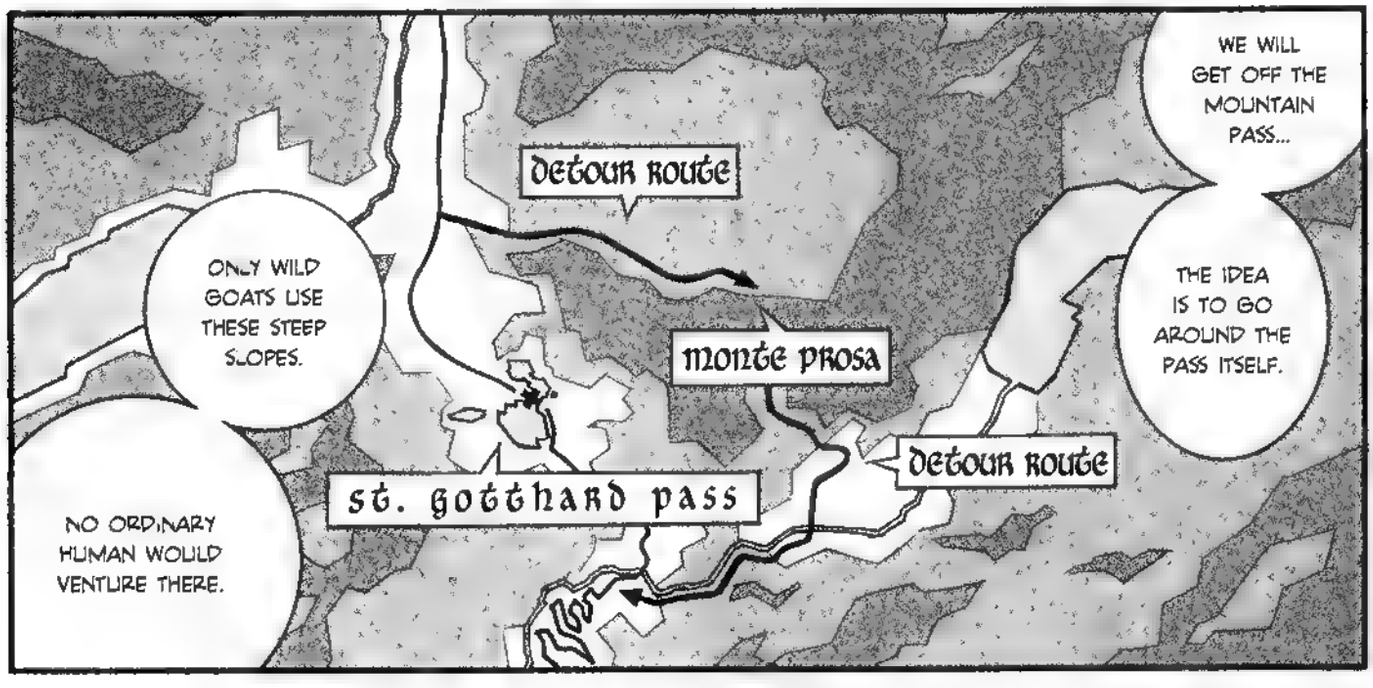
I-
I WILL!
SO...
...BE SURE...
...TO RETURN.
THANKS.
YOU, TOO.
MAY GOD BE WITH YOU.

THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL BELIEVE.

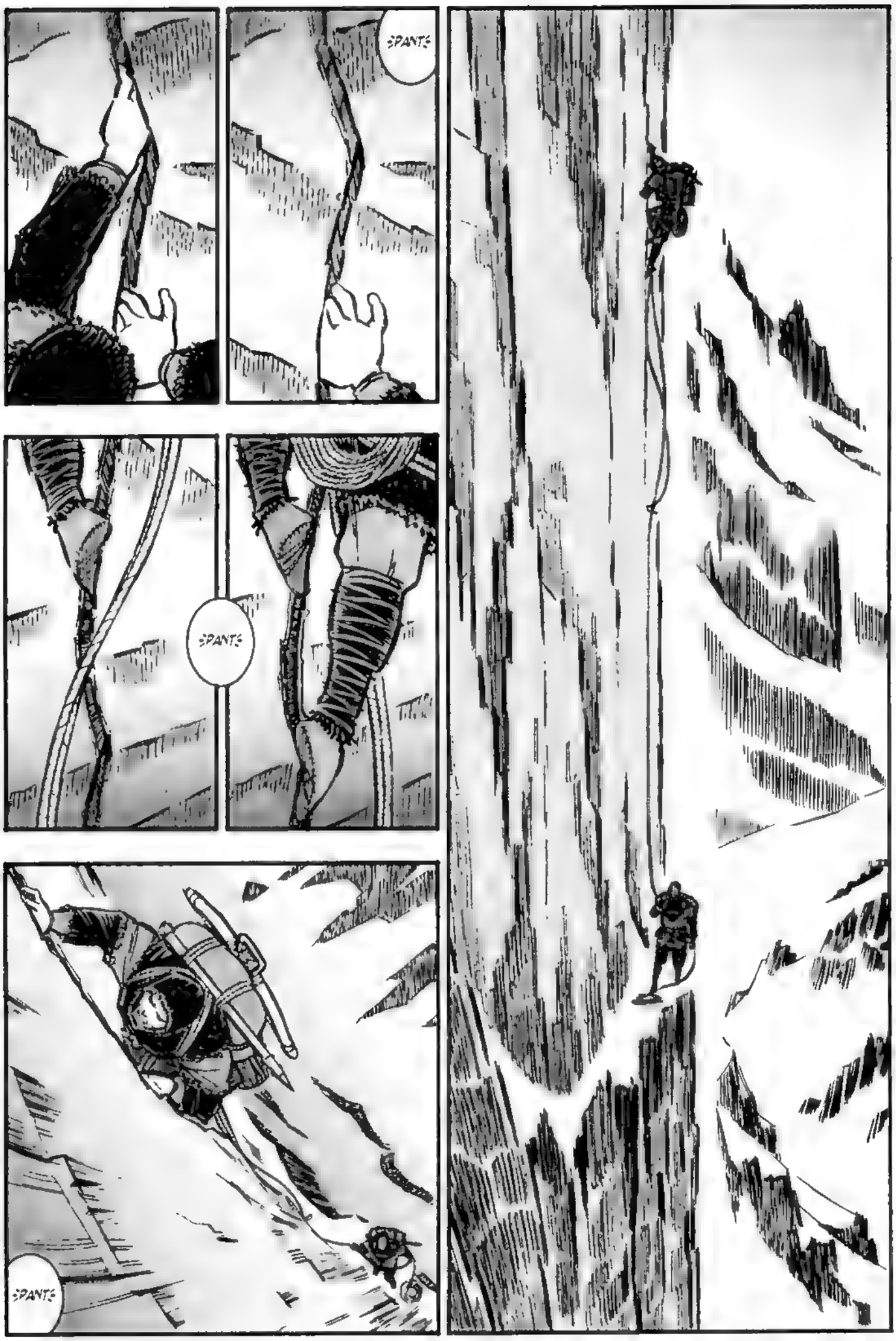
WE SHALL USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

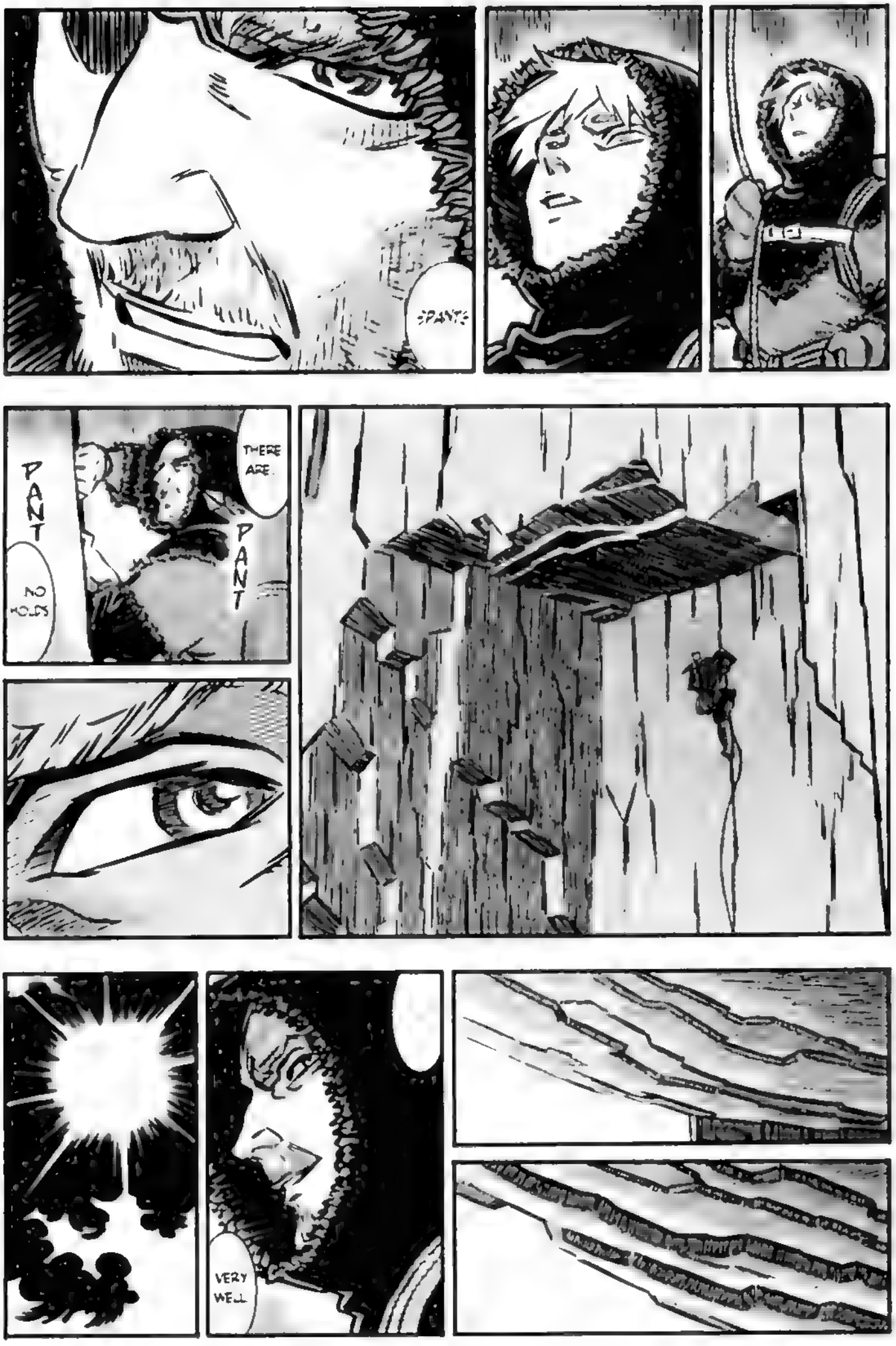
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSS THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT.


N
W
E
S
to germany
north fort
pass inn
THE PASS IS INTERRUPTED BY SEVERAL LAKES.
THE SPACE IN BETWEEN IS OCCUPIED BY THE CHECKPOINT ITSELF AND TWO SECONDARY FORTS.
YOU CANNOT CROSS THE LAKES EVEN WHEN THEY ARE FROZEN.
FOR THE ENEMY MAKES ROUNDS WITH THEIR BOATS TO KEEP THE WATER FROM FREEZING, THEREBY CUTTING A MOAT INTO THE ICE.
checkpoint
south fort
to italy


detour route
WE WILL GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN PASS...
ONLY WILD GOATS USE THESE STEEP SLOPES.
THE IDEA IS TO GO AROUND THE PASS ITSELF.
monte prosa
detour route
st. gotthard pass
NO ORDINARY HUMAN WOULD VENTURE THERE.

..WE ARE HUNTERS.
HOWEVER ...
PURSUING THOSE WILD GOATS IS PART OF OUR JOB
WE WORK IN THE MOUN-TAINS.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

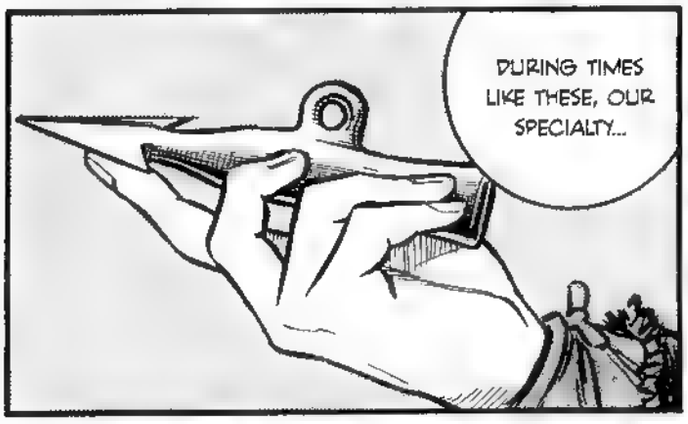

SPANG
SPANG
SPANG


PANT
PANT
THERE ARE.
PANT
PANT
VERY WELL

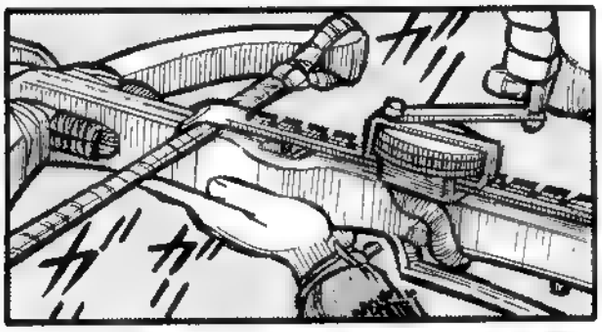
MNNG
!

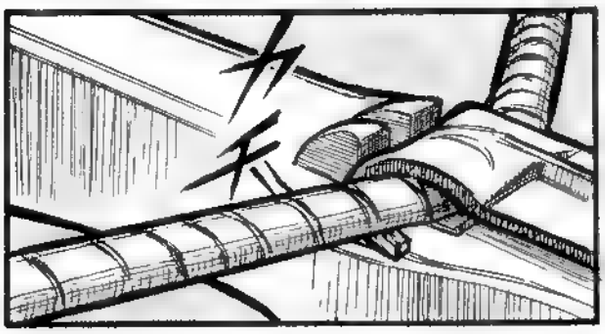
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:HUFF:
:HUFF:

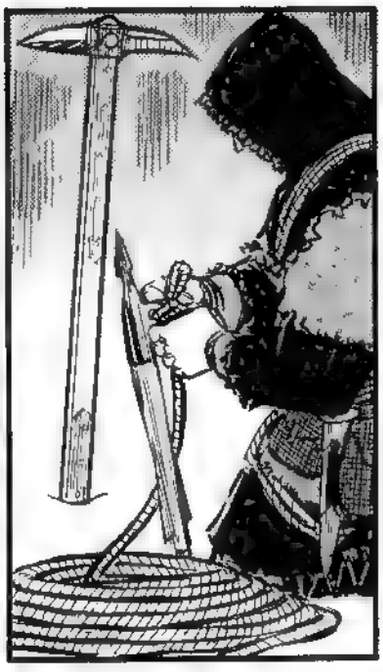
THIS GAP CAN'T BE CLEARED.
SHALL WE HEAD TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE AND CLIMB UP SOMEWHERE ELSE?
HMM...
WELL...


DURING TIMES LIKE THESE, OUR SPECIALTY...

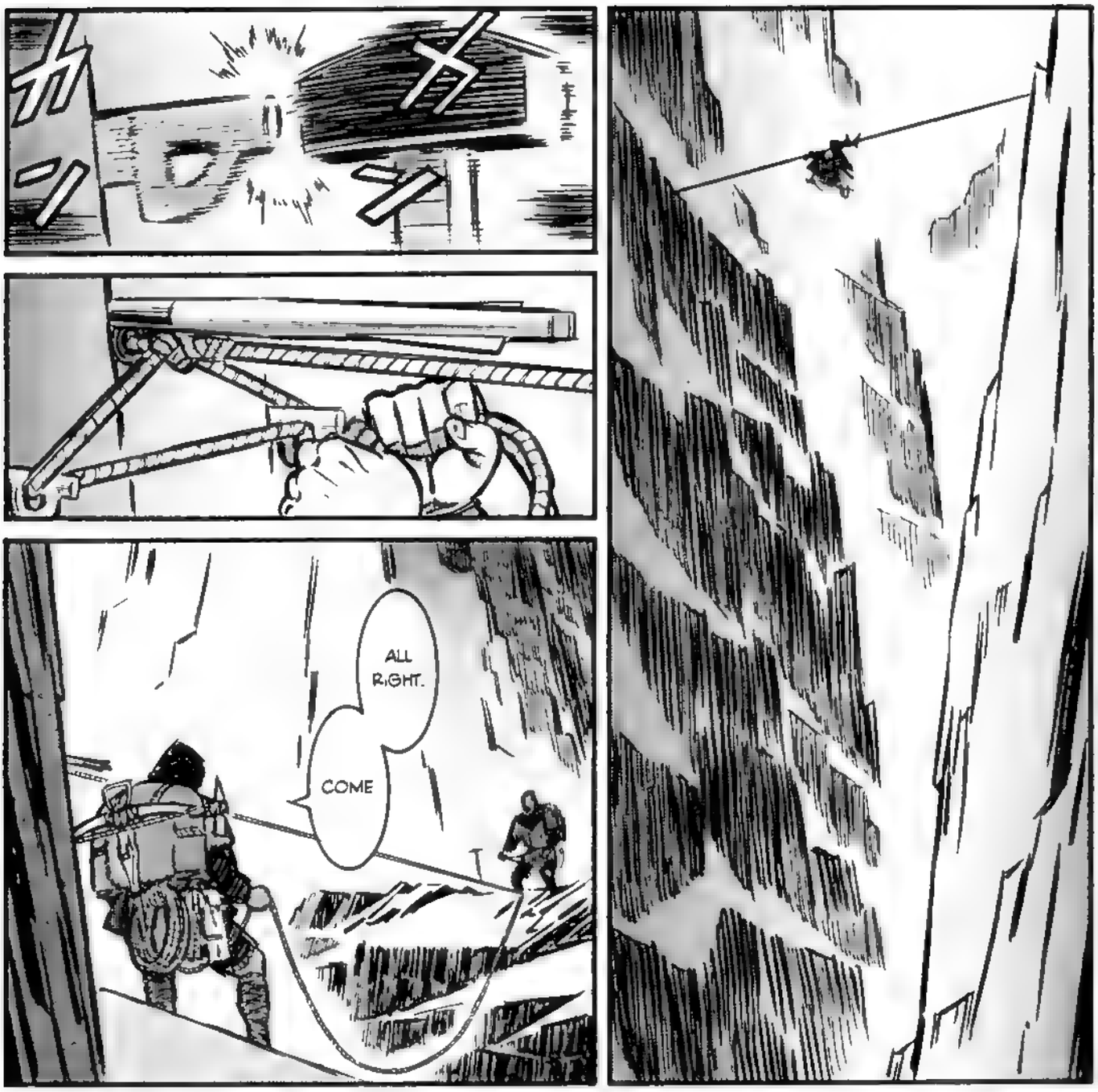
...IS PUT TO THE TEST.



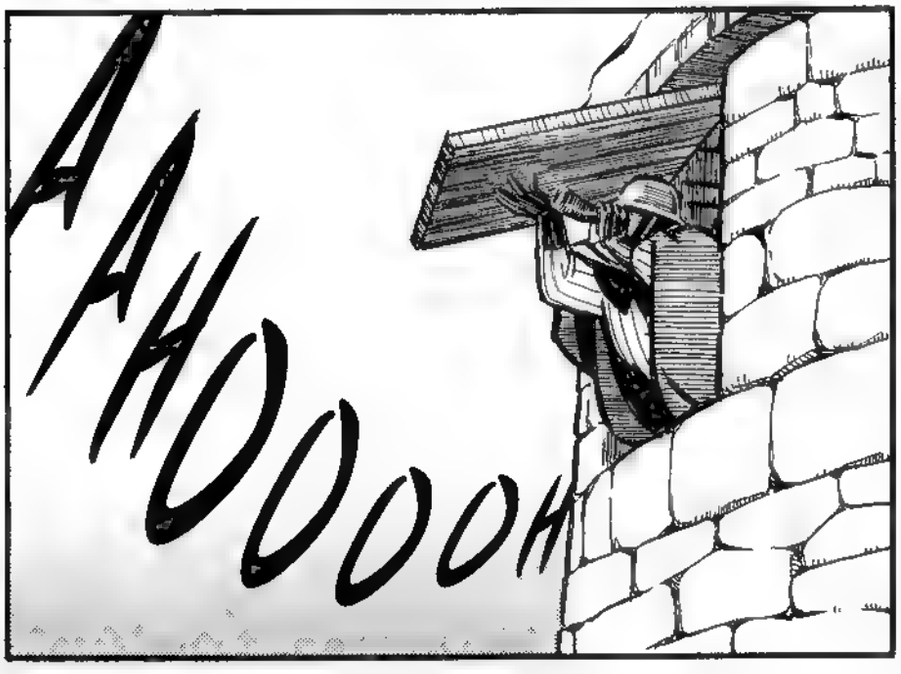


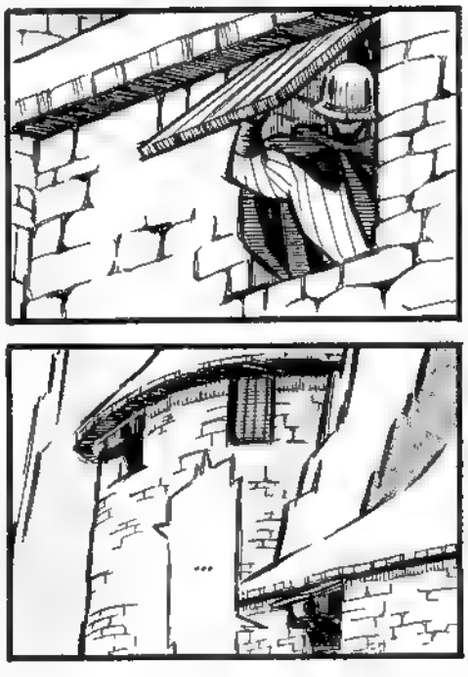


IT'S IN.
OF COURSE
READY, FATHER.
RIGHT.
しゃる
しゃる
しゃる
しゃる
ガン
しっ


ALL RIGHT.
COME

OHO...
EVEN IN THIS PLACE...
I COMMEND THEM FOR THEIR EFFORT.


AAHOOOOH

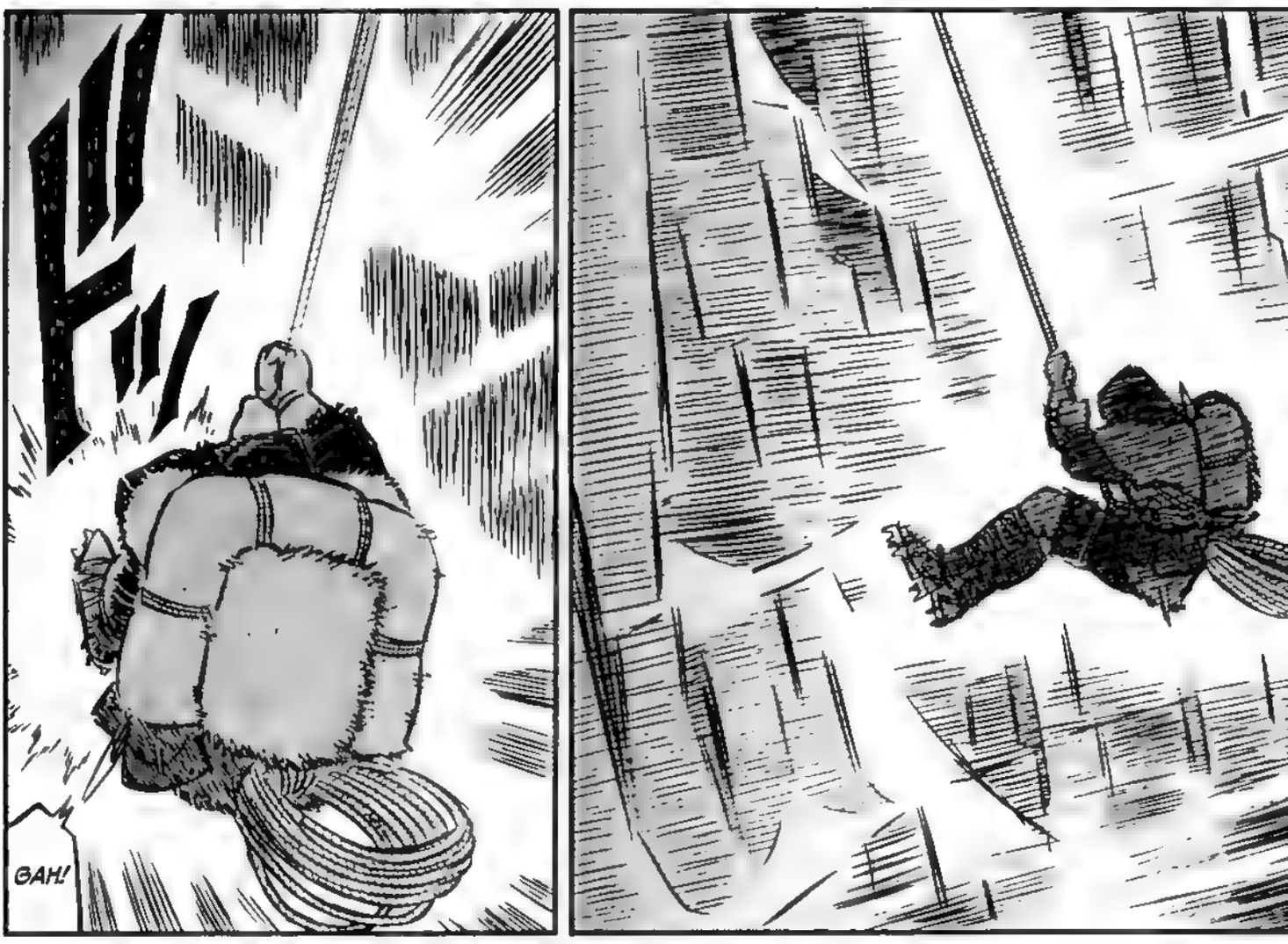

...

AAHOOOH
AAHOOOH
AHOOOH
CLAN-
DESTINE
TRAVEL-
ERS!
APPREHEND
THEM!
WHA-
WHAT
IS IT?!
!

WAH!
ドゲシャア
!
!
JUMP!
WALTER!

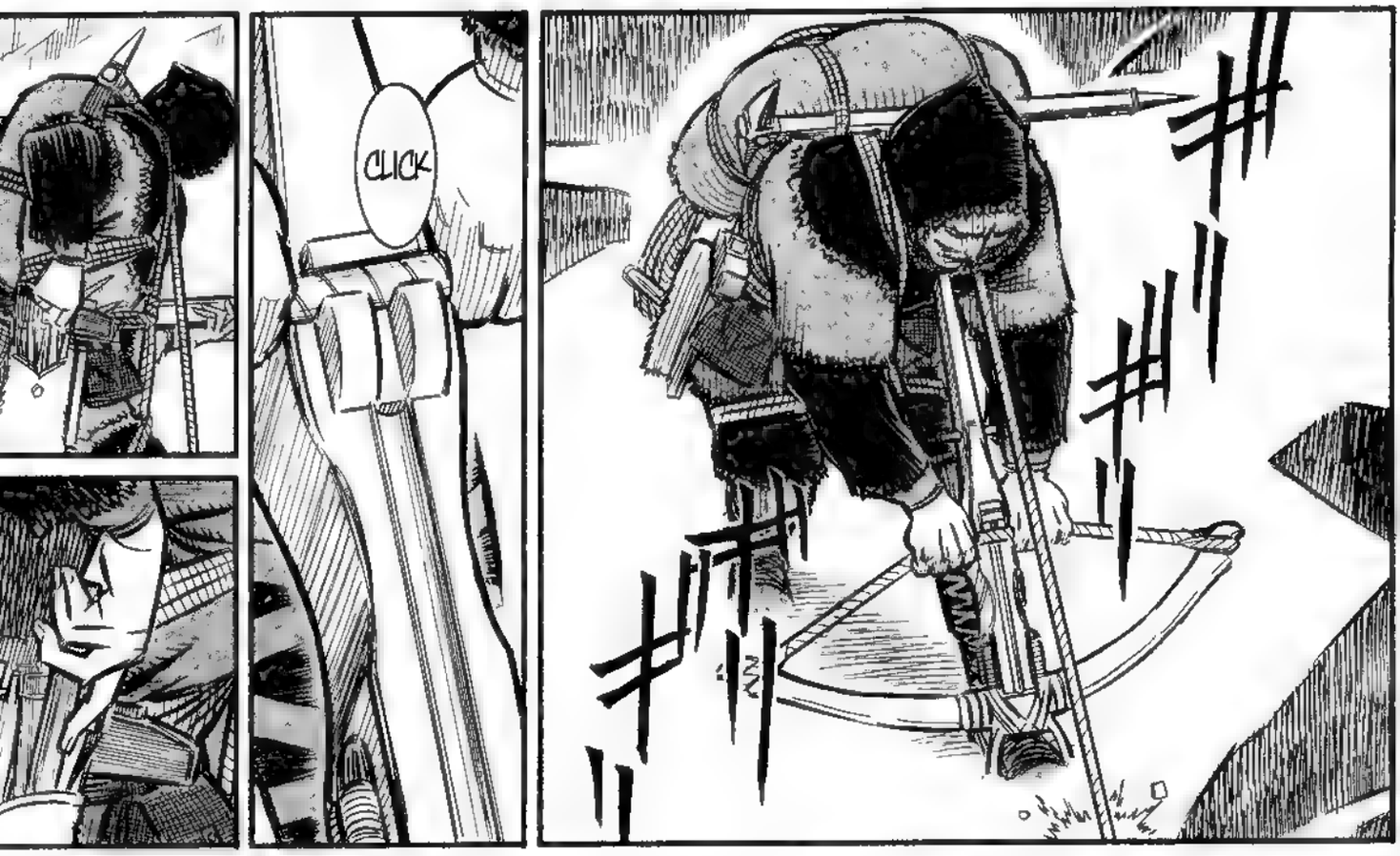
YAAAAHH!

HRGH
!

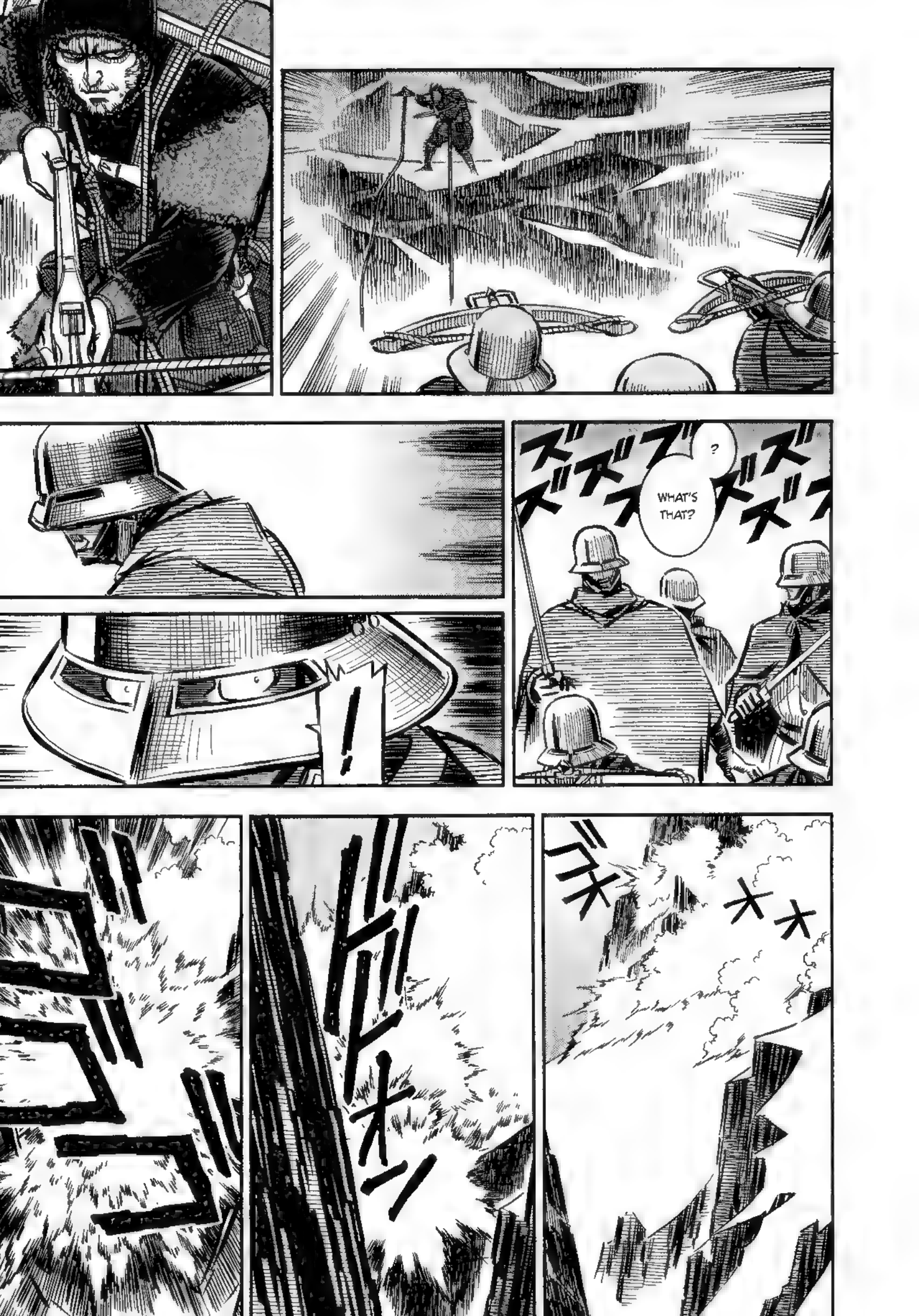

GAH!

URGH
!
SHOOT THEM DOWN.
BLAST IT!

MNNG
!


CLICK

WALTER
!
HOLD ON TIGHT, MY SON!
FATHER
!


ズズズズ
?
WHAT'S THAT?
!
ゴオオ
ドオン

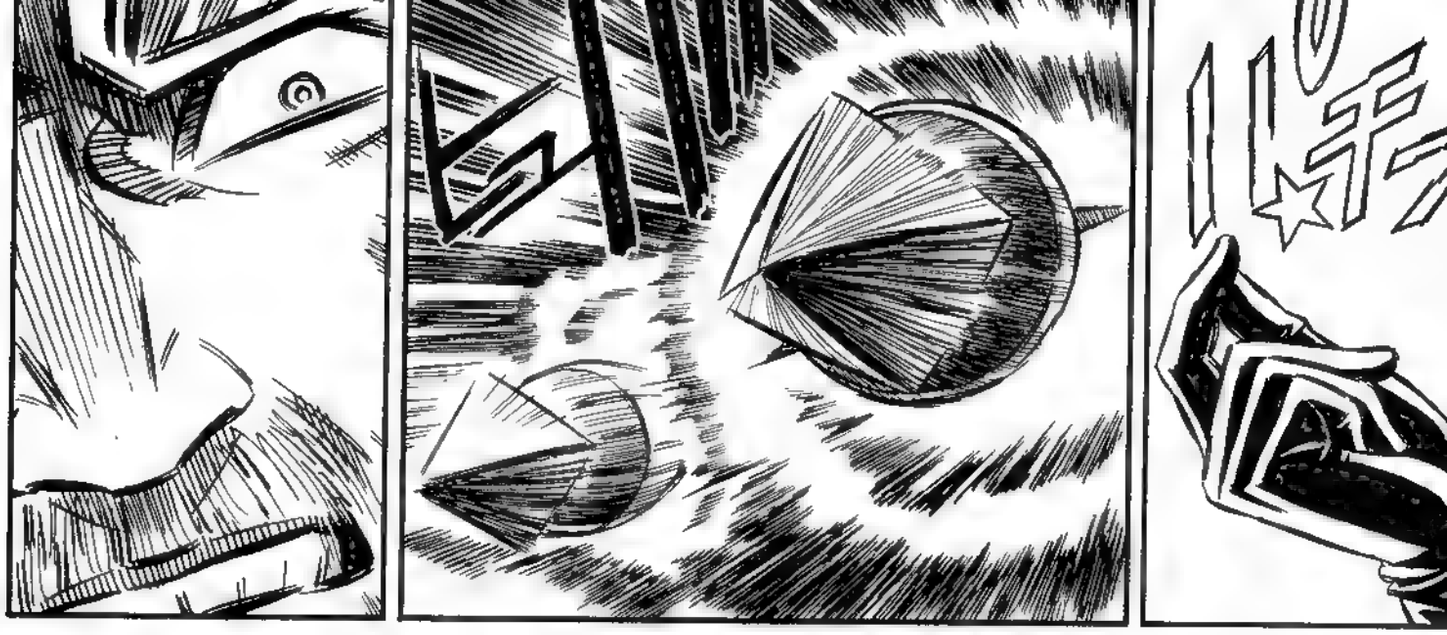
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
:PANT:
ONLY YOU COULD BRING ABOUT...
...SUCH A MIRACLE.
PANT
PANT
THAT WAS AMAZING ...
FATHER ...
PANT
PANT
ボズッ
IT'S PURE SKILL.
IT'S NOT A MIRACLE.
PANT
PANT

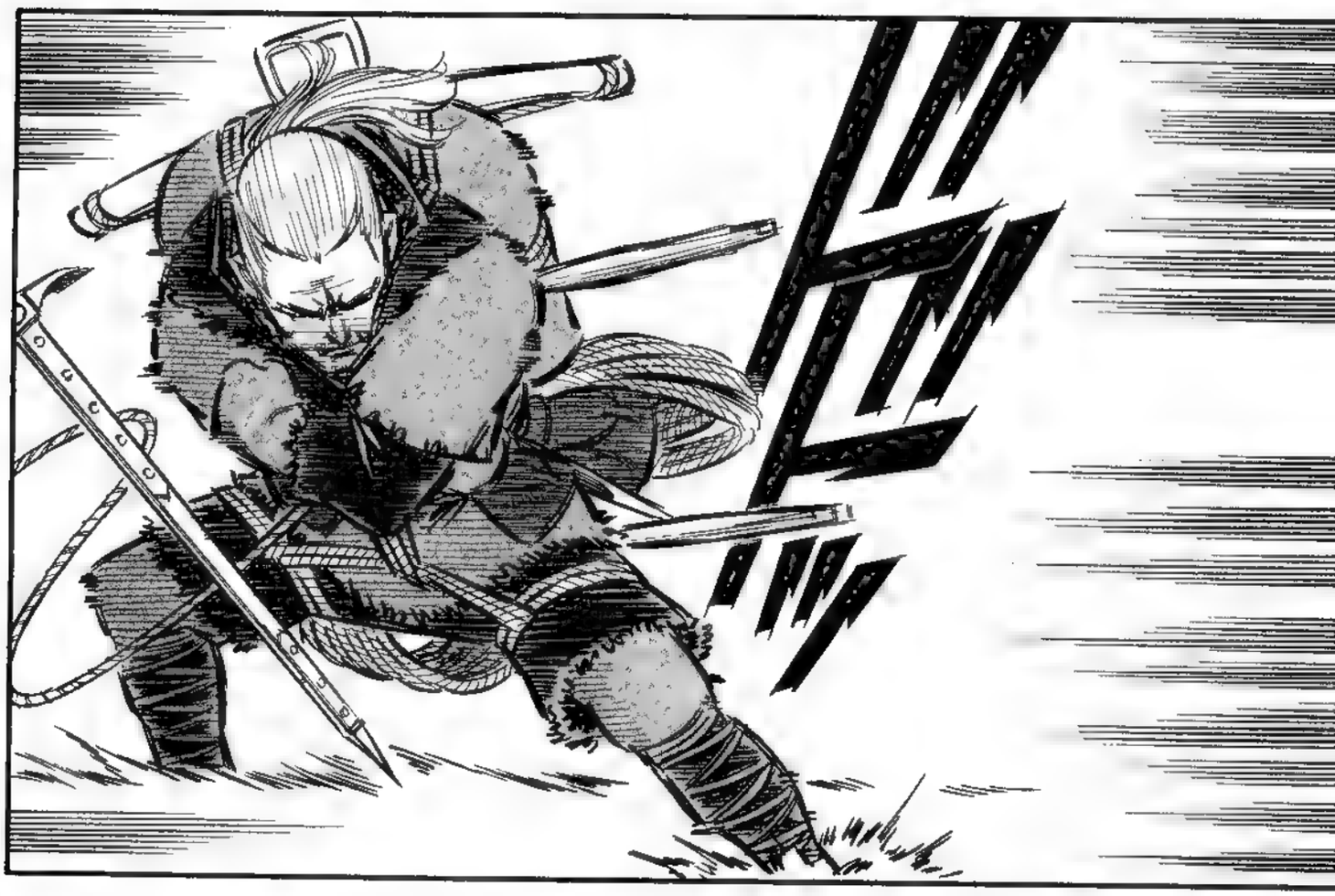
YOUR REAL TRAINING HAS ONLY BEGUN.
BRACE YOURSELF
SOME DAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME FEAT.
YOUR TRAINING ISN'T COMPLETE AFTER ONLY FIVE YEARS.
...
FATHER ...
AFTER ALL,
THE ONE TO CARRY ON THE NAME OF TELL...
...WILL BE YOU,
WALTER.
YES, FATHER.
ぎゃっ
NOW RISE.
WE MUST KEEP MOVING.

FATHER ...
I KNOW.
WE'RE AT THE BORDER.
ONCE WE DESCEND, WE'LL BE ON ITALIAN SOIL.
THE ENEMY CANNOT REACH US ANYMORE.
VICTORY ...
...IS OURS.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE REAL BATTLE STARTS HERE.
THIS IS OUR DESCENT.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
VERY WELL.
YOU TAKE THE LEAD FROM HERE, WALTER.
THENCEFORTH A NEW ERA SHALL BEGIN.
THE CONFEDERACY WILL HAVE NEW STRENGTH.

COULD YOU WAIT A MOMENT PLEASE?
WHOA !





FATHER
!

WHY DON'T YOU PASS THROUGH THE BORDER CHECKPOINT?
A MAN HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO OBEY THE LAW.
YET YOU GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF TAKING SUCH A ROUNDABOUT WAY...

OTHERWISE ...

...WE'LL HAVE TO EXECUTE YOU RIGHT HERE.

NOW...
COME TO THE CHECKPOINT WITH US.

RUN!
CUT THE ROPE!
WALTER !

FATHER!

ボロ
ズ
ズ
ズ
GRAB THE ROPE!
FATHER!
HURRY AND CLIMB!
FATHER!
THE SNOW'S TOO FRAIL FOR ME TO PULL YOU UP.
!
WALTER...
IF THEY FALL WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER THEIR BODIES.
GO.
CAPTURE THEM QUICKLY!

YOU CANNOT ...
...HELP ME ANYMORE.
YOU ALONE...
...MIGHT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.
CUT...
...THE ROPE.
NO!
NO WAY!
CUT THE ROPE.
GO ON AHEAD, MY SON.
THAT'S RIGHT, BOTH OF YOUR HANDS...
...ARE OCCUPIED.
I COULD NEVER...
...DO THAT!

FATHER...
THANK YOU.
YOU TRULY ARE...
...A HERO.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY...
BUT I'M SORRY.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.
WATER...

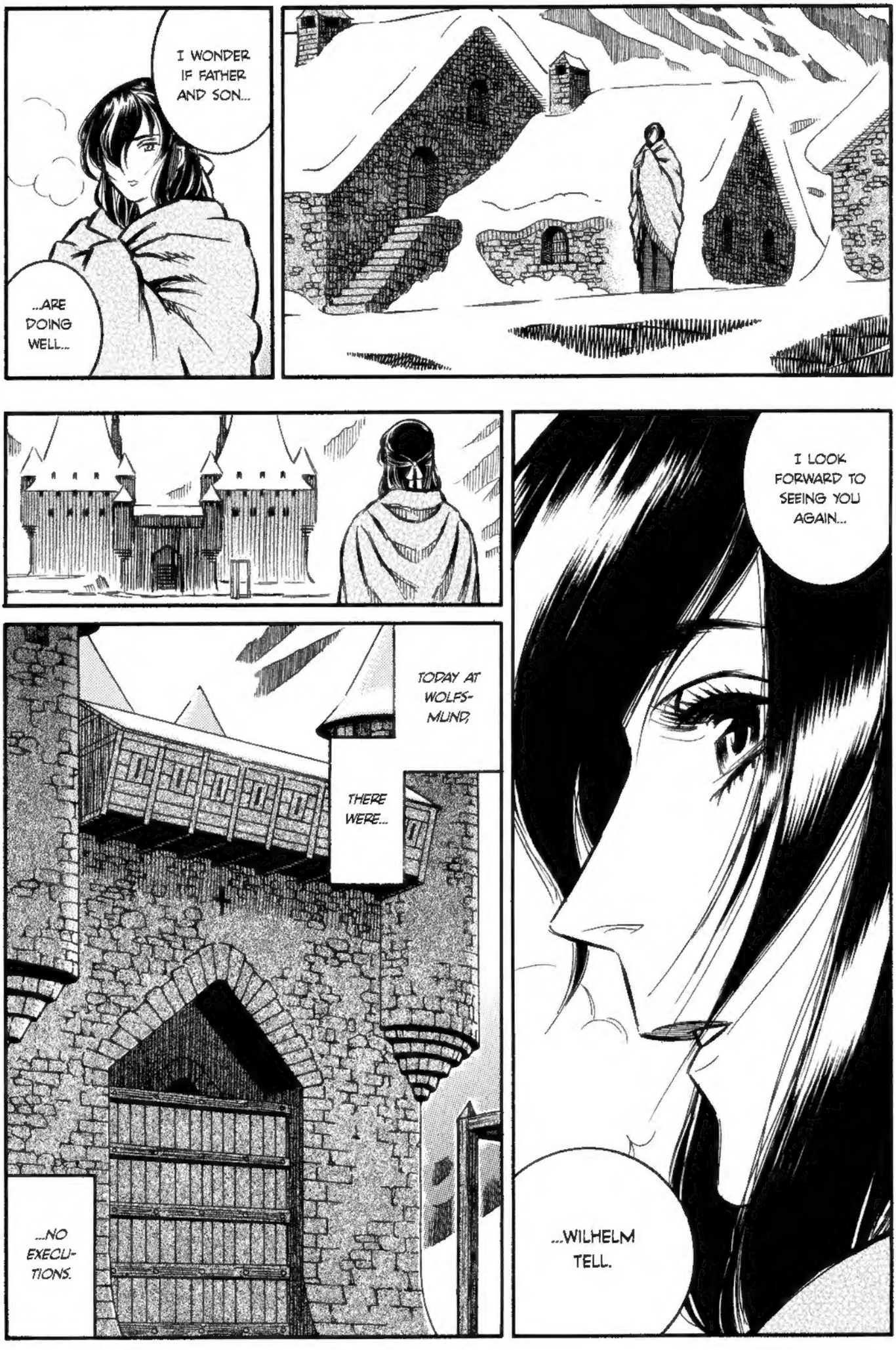
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
FATHER!
YOU...
...UNGRATEFUL CHILD...

THAT IS A GOOD ONE.
USUALLY YOU ACT ALL MIGHTY.
YET THIS IS ALL IT COMES DOWN TO?
YOU CAN'T FIND...
...THEIR BODIES?
I AM ASHAMED OF MY FAILURE.
YOUR EXCELLENCY.
HOW UNSIGHTLY.
WOLFRAM.
THE THREE FOREST CANTONS...
...ARE BRIMMING WITH SIGNS OF REBELLION.
EVEN SMALL BLUNDERS LIKE THIS...
...COULD HAVE DIRE CONSE-QUENCES.

THERE WILL NOT BE A NEXT TIME.
IF YOU FA...
...I WILL HAVE YOUR HEAD.
DO NOT LET ANY OTHER REBELS THROUGH THE BORDER.
TIGHTEN SECURITY..
...AND SUBJECT ALL TRAVELERS TO A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THAT IN MIND.
YES, SIRE!

LUGA-
NO.
とんとん
HMM.
WHO
ARE
YOU?
WALTER
...
...FROM
URI.
GOATS.
YOUR
LIVESTOCK,
ARE THEY
COWS OR
HORSES?
I'M
WILHELM
TELL'S...
...SON.

IT'S AMAZING YOU MADE IT HERE IN YOUR CONDITION...
OHH.
THANK GOD!
WHAT ABOUT WILHELM ?
IS HE HERE?!


I WONDER IF FATHER AND SON...
...ARE DOING WELL...
TODAY AT WOLFS-MUND,
THERE WERE...
...NO EXECU-TIONS.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN...
...WILHELM TELL.

Wolfsmund 1 Ende